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Evil Flowers' staff!
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Amakusa 1637 Volume 5 chapter 18

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●今回はいろんな人が出てきます。

鍋島藩騒動も松平忠直様も黒田の忠臣・栗山様も映画や舞台になっているようで。ドラマチックな人たちなんですね——。大河（NHK）の「宮本武蔵」も見てますよ。堤真一さんがわりと好きだったりします。それにしても、武蔵って岡山か兵庫の人ですよね。お国なまりのある武蔵が一度見たいな。見たことない気がする…。

赤石路代

赤石路代の公式ホームページ
http://www14.u-page.so-net.ne.jp/xb3/michiyo/

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●カバーデザイン／小松美紀子＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

FLOWER COMICS

フラワーコミックス

AMAKUSA 1637

アマクサ

MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS

5

赤石路代

MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS

FLOWER COMICS

AMAKUSA 1637

5

赤石路代

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flowers フラワーコミックス

三代将軍・徳川家光の
従兄でありながら、
なぜか軟禁生活を送る松平忠直。
夏月たちは、彼に会うため
豊後に向かうが、道中、
徳川家の隠密・柳生十兵衛に遭遇する!!
そんななか、
歴史に微妙なゆがみが生じはじめた。
これは、吉兆なのか、凶兆なのか!?

赤石路代の本

フラワーコミックス

AMAKUSA1637 ①〜⑤
シネマの帝国 ①〜②
デザート・ストーム
サイレント・アイ 全6巻
永遠かもしれない 全8巻
夜がおわらない 全3巻
P.A.(プライベートアクトレス) 全8巻
P.A.(特別編)
アスターリスク 全2巻
●赤石路代トラマチックワールド
①NEWS6:30
②雨の似合う部屋
③ストロベリームーン

ジュディーコミックス

市長 遠山京香 ①〜②

フラワーコミックス・デラックス

ワン・モア・ジャンプ 全4巻
アルペンローゼ 全4巻
天よりも星よりも 全4巻

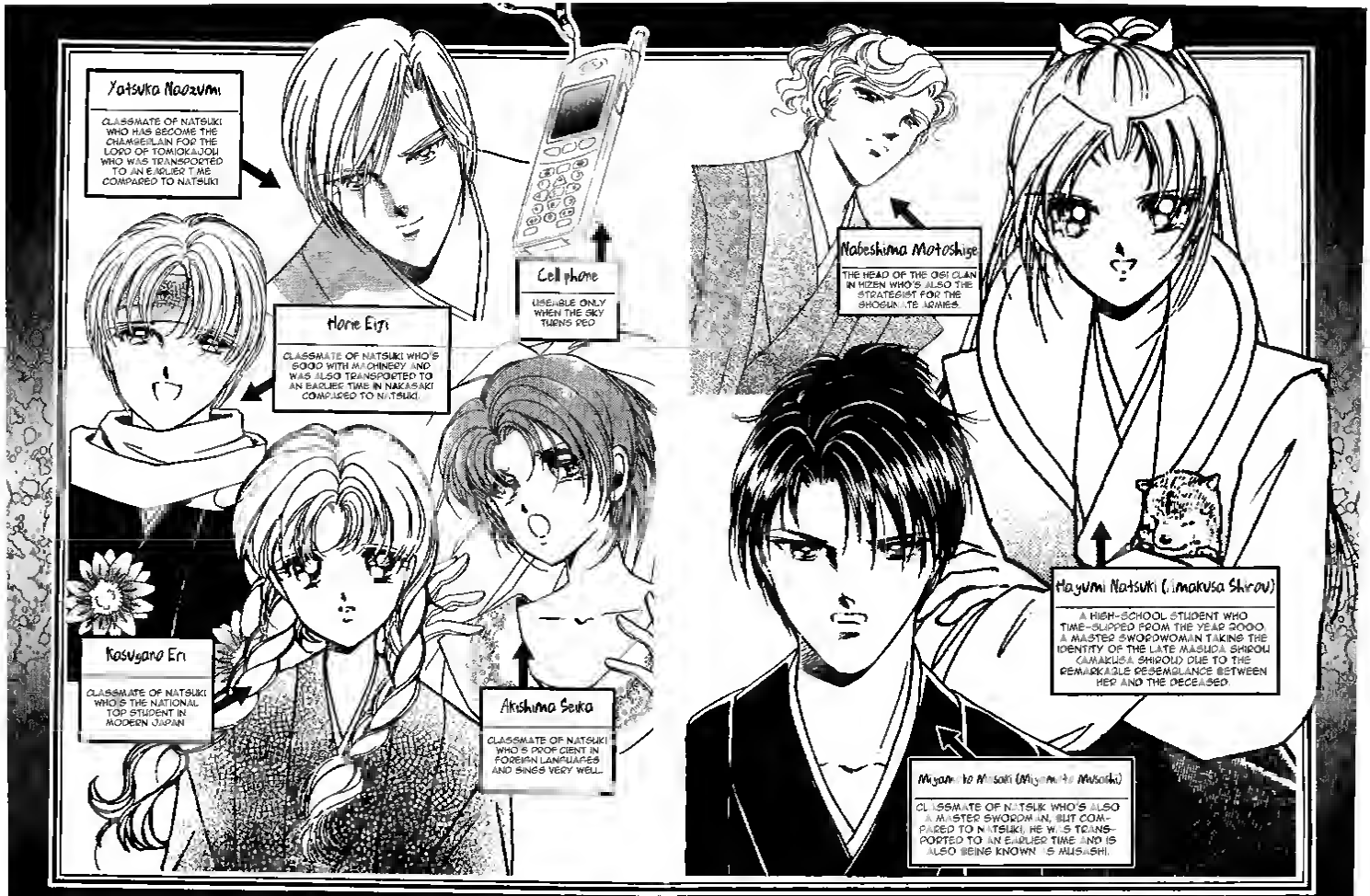
小学館文庫

SAINT 全3巻
アスターリスク
姫100% 全2巻
ないしょのハーフムーン 全3巻
「あると」の「あ」 全2巻
P.A.(プライベートアクトレス) 全4巻
フェアレディは涙をながす

AMAKUSA
1637⑤

AMAKUSA 1637

MICHIYO AKAISHI PRESENTS


Yatsuka Naozumi
CLASSMATE OF NATSUKI WHO HAS BECOME THE CHAMBERLAIN FOR THE LORD OF TOMIOKAJOU WHO WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER TIME COMPARED TO NATSUKI
Cell phone
USEABLE ONLY WHEN THE SKY TURNS RED
Hara Eiri
CLASSMATE OF NATSUKI WHO'S GOOD WITH MACHINERY AND WAS ALSO TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER TIME IN NAKASAKI COMPARED TO NATSUKI.
Nabeshima Motoshige
THE HEAD OF THE OGI CLAN IN HIZEN WHO'S ALSO THE STRATEGIST FOR THE SHOGUNATE ARMIES.
Hayumi Natsuki (Amakusa Shirou)
A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WHO TIME-SLIPPED FROM THE YEAR 2000. A MASTER SWORDWOMAN TAKING THE IDENTITY OF THE LATE MASUDA SHIROU (AMAKUSA SHIROU) DUE TO THE REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN HER AND THE DECEASED.
Rosugaro Eri
CLASSMATE OF NATSUKI WHO IS THE NATIONAL TOP STUDENT IN MODERN JAPAN
Akishima Seika
CLASSMATE OF NATSUKI WHO IS PROFICIENT IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND SINGS VERY WELL.
Miyamoto Musashi (Miyamoto Musashi)
CLASSMATE OF NATSUKI WHO'S ALSO A MASTER SWORDMAN, BUT COMPARED TO NATSUKI, HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO AN EARLIER TIME AND IS ALSO BEING KNOWN AS MUSASHI.

SUMMARY

NATSUKI AND HER FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL WERE ON A FIELD TRIP WHEN THEY WERE SHIPWRECKED. THE STUDENTS WERE ALL TRANSPORTED TO THE PERIPHERY OF AMAKUSA BEFORE THE RIOT TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, EVERYONE ARRIVED AT A DIFFERENT PERIOD OF TIME OF THAT ERA. NATSUKI, WHO CAUSES VARIOUS MIRACLES TO HAPPEN, LIVES AS THE DECEASED "AMAKUSA SHIROU" AND IS GOING TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIANS IN THAT WORLD. NATSUKI AND HER FRIENDS ARE TRAVELLING TO KYUSHU TO VISIT POWERFUL FEUDAL LORDS HOPING TO PREVENT THE TRAGEDY OF THE AMAKUSA REBELLION.

AMAKUSA 1637

AMAKUSA MAP

Feudal Lords in Kyushu

TSUSHIMA

IKI

CHIKUZE
AMAKUSA

FUKUOKA
CLAN

HOUSE OF
KURODA

BUZEN

HIZEN

OGI CLAN

CHIKUGO

SAGA CLAN

BUNGO

KUMAMOTO
CLAN

SHIMABARA
CLAN

HOUSE OF
MATSUURA

AMAKUSA

HIGO

HYUGA

SATSUMA

OOSUMI

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AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MIZUHO AKANE PRESENTS
CHAPTER 18

Who exactly is he?
I'M SORRY YOU'VE HELPED ME, AND I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED YOUR NAME.
Who is this person?
This person...
MASUDA SHIROU... DONO? WHERE HAVE I HEARD THIS NAME...?
DONO, HE'S MASUDA SHIROU-SAMA.
COULD HE BE...

I HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT A PERSON WITH THE SAME NAME—
SURELY THAT PERSON'S— NOT WITH MIYAMOTO-DONO OF THE KOKURA CLAN.
THAT PERSON—
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE PERSON WHO'S KNOWN AS GOD'S MESSENGER OF AMAKUSA?
GOD'S MES-SENGER OF AMAKUSA?!
AH,
THAT REMINDS ME, A CRUCIFIX EMERGED IN THE LIGHT JUST BEFORE FATHER APPEARED.
MI,. . MITSU-SHIGE.

No, that was— a ringing melody from the mobile phone.
THE UNEXPLAINABLE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC THAT SEEMED TO DESCEND FROM HEAVEN AT THAT TIME—
No, I think that was caused by a moth or something else.
MASTER, SO YOU'RE GOD'S MESSENGER.
That was the small flashlight
AND THE MYSTERIOUS LIGHT ACCOMPANYING THE MUSIC CAME OUT FROM NOWHERE.
MIYAMOTO ..
Lens
YES, THAT'S RIGHT IT'S AS YOU'VE GUESSED.
WHO IS KNOWN AS 'AMAKUSA SHIROU'.
THIS PERSON IS MASUDA SHIROU.

That banned religion, Christianity-
Amakusa Shirou.
WEL.. WELL THEN, WHAT DOES GOD'S MESSENGER PLAN TO DO HERE AT THE SAGA CLAN? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME—?
BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR WORDS
Oh—
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HE'S NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY MAN.
AT THIS MOMENT 30,000 PEOPLE IN SHIMABARA AMAKUSA ARE STARVING TO DEATH
I'VE COME TO ASK FOR A FAVOR FROM YOU.
How shall I say it...?
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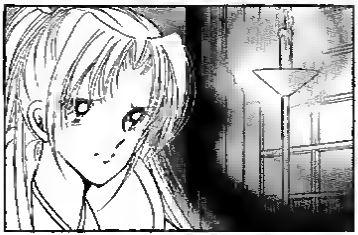
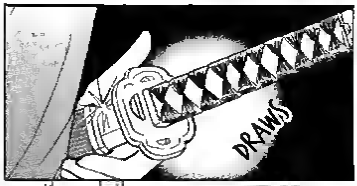
A RIOT WILL BREAK OUT BEFORE LONG.
RIOT? THE ONES WHO WOULD BE RIOTING ARE YOU PEOPLE
NO, WE CAN'T STOP IT EVEN IF WE TRY. THAT PLACE IS SWIRLING WITH DESPAIR AND ANGER.
THIS RIOT WILL UNSETTLE JAPAN AND TURN INTO A WAR
IT WILL BECOME A WAR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE SHOGUNATE.
AND WHAT DO YOU WANT THE SAGA CLAN TO DO?
Well— I'll just be straightforward about it
PLEASE— LEND US A HAND.
WHA... WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU KNOW THAT I, NABESHIMA MOTOSHIGE, AM THE STRATEGIST FOR THE SHOGUNATE ARMIES?
I'D BE GLAD IF YOU COULD AT LEAST NOT BE OUR ENEMY—
PLEASE, I BEG YOU, KATSUSHIGE-SAMA, MOTOSHIGE-SAMA AND MITSUSHIGE-SAMA.
WE ONLY HOPE TO BE HAPPY AND TO LIVE A CARE-FREE LIFE
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-
OF COURSE
ARE YOU DOING THIS AS A MEMBER OF THE KOKURA CLAN? THE KOKURA CLAN'S ONE OF THE FUDAI*, AND THERE'S NO WAY THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS
MIYAMOTO-DONO-

※ *T/N FUDAI = GENERALS WHO SERVED UNDER THE TOKUGAWA HOUSE AFTER THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA WHICH TOKUGAWA IEYASU WON AND BECAME THE RULER OF JAPAN

Miyamoto..
IS NOT OF ANY CLAN OR GENERAL— AND HIS EXISTENCE IS ONLY TO PROTECT THIS PERSON WITH HIS LIFE
NON .. NONSENSE—! MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO'S WITH THE CHRISTIANS?!
It's true that there's something rather unusual about this fellow—
30,000 people, along with Miyamoto Musashi, are with this person?
What exactly is happening?
God's messenger?




DRAWS

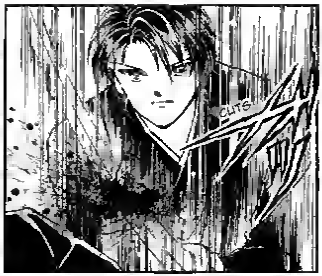
WHA.. WHAT ABOUT HOSOKAWA AND KURODA?
NO... NO WAY IS OUR CLAN YOUR FIRST APPROACH.
Father's losing his nerves to this fellow.

CHARGE
UHW.AA!

DRAWS
THEY'RE HERE AGAIN, MOTOSHIGE.
WHAT...?

YAAAH!
DONO!
IN INTRUDERS!
MITSUSHIGE!
MITSUSHIGE-SAMA!
This is bad, these fellows are—
They aren't only after Motoshige!
KATSUSHIGE-SAMA! PLEASE RUN!
They're going to exterminate every member of Nabeshima.

IF YOU DON'T DROP YOUR WEAPON, I'M GOING CUT OFF THIS FELLOW'S HEAD.
LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
SWIFTLY
FLING
UWAH!
UWAAH!!!



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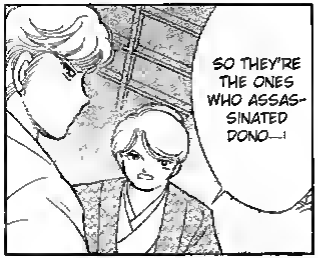
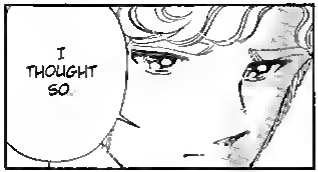
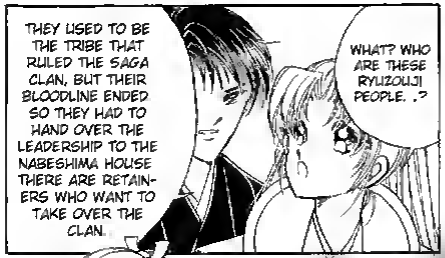

SO THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ASSASSINATED DONO—!

RYUZOUJI ..?
THEY'RE PEOPLE OF THE RYUZOUJI RACE—


I THOUGHT SO.


THEY USED TO BE THE TRIBE THAT RULED THE SAGA CLAN. BUT THEIR BLOODLINE ENDED SO THEY HAD TO HAND OVER THE LEADERSHIP TO THE NABESHIMA HOUSE THERE ARE RETAINERS WHO WANT TO TAKE OVER THE CLAN.
WHAT? WHO ARE THESE RYUZOUJI PEOPLE. .?

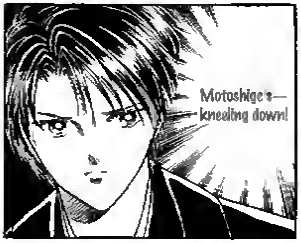
THEY CONSPIRE FOR THE NABESHIMA HOUSE TO FRATRICIDE BY SOWING DISCORD BETWEEN MITSUSHIGE AND ME.

Once again, he saved my life...

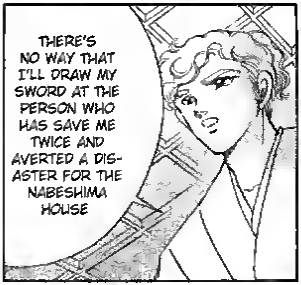
AMAZING! YOU'RE AMAZING!
I JUST KNOW.
WELL— HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THEY WERE COMING, MASTER?
THEY DIDN'T MAKE A SINGLE SOUND—
Clink
He's such an expert swordsman that his sword can't be seen when he swings it.
THIS IS... KUYOUMON
IS THAT FROM THE HOUSE OF HOSOKAWA —?
OOH, THIS
Everything was over just when I thought he was swift as the flowing water as he turned around

Hosokawa's also associating with this person?
I GOT THIS FROM MY FRIEND, HOSOKAWA MITSUTOSHI.
KNEELS
YOU SAVED THE NABESHIMA HOUSE,
AND YOU'VE SAVED THE SAGA CLAN—
I'VE SAID IT TO MIYAMOTO. IF GOD'S MESSENGER'S HERE, I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM FOR HELP
THAT HAS... COME TRUE...
I'M FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT,
AND I'LL DEFINITELY REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.
MASTER, MITSUSHIGE'S ALSO THANKING YOU.

His eyes are crystal clear and honest
Please, lend us a hand.
AH, PLEASE DON'T BOW YOUR HEAD WE'RE THE ONES WHO CAME TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP
But he seems to be only a 16-17 year old youngster—
That's most likely because he's serious about saving those 30,000 people.
Those 30,000 people may have also submitted themselves to—
Even this Nabeshima Motoshige's touched.
He was desperate to save the lives of others and that's—captivating.
DON'T TALK MOTOSHIGE AND HANG ON TIGHT!


Motoshige's— kneeling down!

This... God's messenger.
KNEELS


THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'LL DRAW MY SWORD AT THE PERSON WHO HAS SAVE ME TWICE AND AVERTED A DISASTER FOR THE NABESHIMA HOUSE

THE OGI CLAN ALSO PROMISES NEVER TO FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.
ALONG WITH SAGA CLAN.

I LOVE YOU TOO, KATSUSHIGE-SAN.
ARIGATOU, MITSU-SHIGE!
HUGS
THANK YOU, MOTOSHIGE-SAN.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATSUKI?
Ari Arigatou?
He's so bright while his cheeks are soft and smooth It's as if he's not from this world
What was that earlier?
AH,
I'M SORRY ARE YOU ANGRY?
that I hugged another man?
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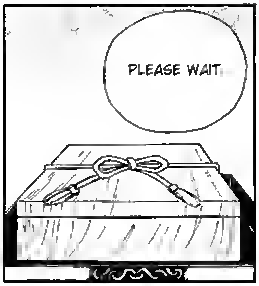
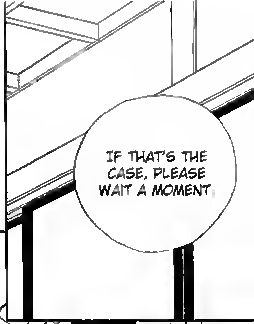
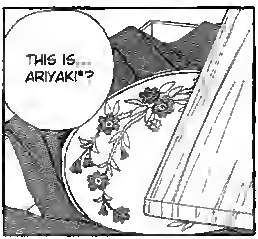
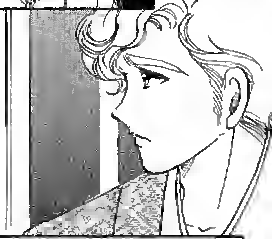
*T/N: BUNGO IS NOW KNOWN AS OITA

that person—?
—which means...
Is there any powerful clan in Bungo? No wait— he said 'someone'...
SEN
BUNGO
BETSUEU
OOITA
He's notoriously known as a violent tyrant who suffers the tragedy of being exiled to Bungo—
That man who's Tokugawa Ieritsu's cousin and also the former head of the Tochizen Clan who commands 630 000 goku.
He has the same name as my deceased brother...
Matsudaira Tadanao-sama









*T/N: ARIYAKI IS A JAPANESE PORCELAIN MADE IN THE SAGA PREFECTURE AFTER LATE 15TH CENTURY

FAMOUS?
OH, THIS IS FROM THE FAMOUS KAKIEMON.
NO, HE'S NOT FAMOUS YET. HIS RED PAINTING IS ACHIEVED FIVE TO SIX YEARS LATER FROM NOW.

*T/N: KAKIEMON, ALSO KNOWN AS SAGAIO, KAKIEMON, WAS A POTTER OF EARLY EDO PERIOD WHO LEARNED CHINESE POTTERY AND SUCCEEDED IN RED PAINTING ON PORCELAIN

PLEASE USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO SEE... THAT PERSON
IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR US TO ACCEPT SUCH A VALUABLE THING?
Sometimes they use inexplicable language...
But Motoshige-san, I didn't even tell you who I'm going to meet.
THANK YOU
THE SAGA CLAN AND OGI HAN WILL BECOME REMARKABLE CLANS
THE CAUSE OF THE DISTURBANCE AFTER THIS IS GONE TOO
HE'S A RATHER NICE PERSON—
YES

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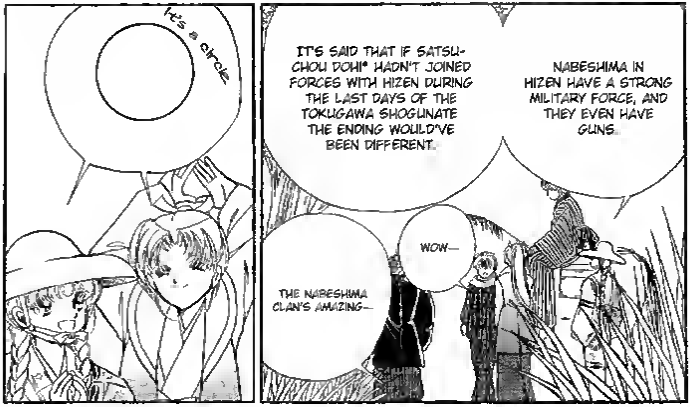
*T/N: SATSUCHOU DOHI WAS KNOWN AS THE "3 CLAN" DURING THE LAST DAYS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE AND CONSISTED OF 4 CLANS


It's a circle
IT'S SAID THAT IF SATSUCHOU DOHI* HADN'T JOINED FORCES WITH HIZEN DURING THE LAST DAYS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE THE ENDING WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.
NABESHIMA IN HIZEN HAVE A STRONG MILITARY FORCE, AND THEY EVEN HAVE GUNS.
WOW—
THE NABESHIMA CLAN'S AMAZING—

HEY— HEY— BETSUBU'S NEARBY, ISN'T IT?
WILL THERE BE HOT SPRINGS IN THAT AREA—? HOT SPRINGS ♡
SEN
BETSUBU
BUNGO
OOITA
OUR DESTINATION IS 'TSUMORI,' WHICH IS AT THE EDGE OF OOITA
MATSUDAIRA TADANAO SHOULD BE THERE.
HMM, WE HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCE.
MAYBE HE'S A WISE LORD WHO'S BANISHED DUE TO A CONSPIRACY, OR PERHAPS HE'S REALLY A TYRANT—
BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT MAN
HE SEEMS TO BE A WISE LORD, BUT HE KILLS PEOPLE, AND HIS VIOLENT CONDUCTS, WHICH ARE EVEN SHOWN IN MOVIES, ARE COUNTLESS —
BUT— ERI YOU SHOULD HURRY UP,
AND TELL US ABOUT SHOGUNATE'S COUSIN WHO'S IN OOITA AND IS PROBABLY A CHRISTIAN TOO,
SO THAT WE CAN ASK HIM TO BE OUR AWESOME SUPPORTER.

HMPH, WE'LL SEE HIM,
AND THAT ALONE SHOWS THAT HE'S— AN IMPORTANT PERSON
AND IT MAY NOT BE EASY TO SEE HIM—
BUT IT SEEMS THAT HIS PLACE IS HEAVILY GUARDED,
AAH...
AND IF THIS CONTINUES ON, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN
HMM—
HISTORY'S CHANGING BIT BY BIT,
HEY! LOOK, LOOK OVER THERE!
IT'S TOO LATE TO EVEN THINK ABOUT IT NOW
IS THIS AL-RIGHT?
ARE WE GOING OVER-BOARD? I'M SCARED
FOUND IT! IT'S A HOT SPRING!
Hot Spring
NATSUKI! MIYAMOTO AND EIJI ARE HERE!
AH! THERE YOU ARE! WHY ARE YOU DRINKING QUIETLY BY YOURSELVES?

WHAT'S UP? ARE YOU GUYS DRINKING?
WOAH— NATSUKI, YOU LOOK LIKE A GIRL
WHAT'S THAT? DON'T BE RUDE
SHE'S CUTE, ISN'T SHE? WE BORROWED THAT YUKATA FROM KICHOU-SAN.
AM I CUTE?
YE... YES.

YOU DON'T SEEM INTERESTED.
NO, YOU'RE REALLY CUTE.
DIEEE! AMAKUSA SHIROU!
SHIROU-SAMA! WE'VE RUN OUT OF BULLETS!
SHIROU-SAMA! THE ENEMIES ARE EVERYWHERE—

STARS

NATSUKI? WHAT'S WRONG?
MIYAMOTO, DIDN'T YOU GO TO BED?
CHIRP
CHIRP
A DREAM
AH..

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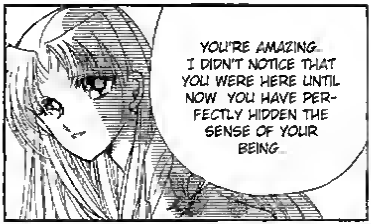
SOME-TIMES I DREAM OF HOME AND SCHOOL.
THE 20TH CENTURY.
EIJI HAD SAID IT TOO EAR-LIER.
DO YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM ALL THIS? IF IT'S POSSI-BLE, DO YOU WANT TO RETURN TO THE 20TH CENTURY?
JUST NOW I DREAMED OF MYSELF DYING.
NATSUKI...
AFTER I WAS STABBED, EVERY-THING TURNED DARK AND I COULDN'T GET AWAY FROM THE DARKNESS.
I WAS SWEAT-ING, TRYING TO WAKE UP FROM THE DREAM.
WELL ANYWAY I CAN'T RETURN NOW.
BUT,
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WERE TO RETURN? AM I GOING TO AMERICA TO STUDY? I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHT-EST IDEA NOW.

HONESTLY, I HAVE SUCH DREAMS ALMOST EVERYDAY.
YES...
NATSUKI— DO YOU ALWAYS DREAM OF YOURSELF DYING?
MY DREAMS OF DEATH ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
I, HAYUMI NATSUKI, AM SUCH A WIMP—
I'M AFRAID OF SLEEPING...
DON'T WORRY AND SLEEP WELL.
BECAUSE I'LL PROTECT YOU.
MIYAMOTO.

THE ONE WHO I WANT TO PROTECT IS YOU
DON'T SAY THAT ANY-MORE.
MIYAMOTO, YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN KOKURA.
I
The one who stands to face the horror of death all by her-self smiling to the rest of us
The one who
The one who won't turn away from the misery before her eyes.
The one who won't walk away from the people who are dying

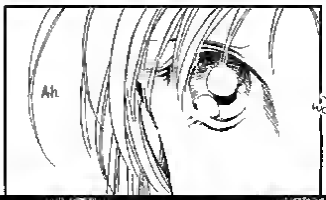
I WON'T LET YOU DIE
AS LONG AS I'M HERE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE FRIGHT-ENED
MIYAMOTO...?
CHIRP
The one whom I love.

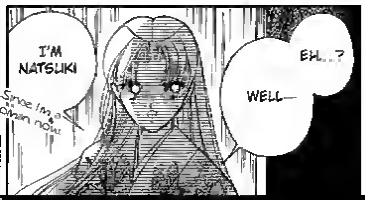
SPLASH
SPLASH
IT'S RAINING.
WAIT HERE I'LL GO AND GET AN UMBRELLA FROM THE INN.
AL-RIGHT
AH...
I'M SORRY... IS SOMEONE HERE?


YOU'RE AMAZING... I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT YOU WERE HERE UNTIL NOW. YOU HAVE PERFECTLY HIDDEN THE SENSE OF YOUR BEING...

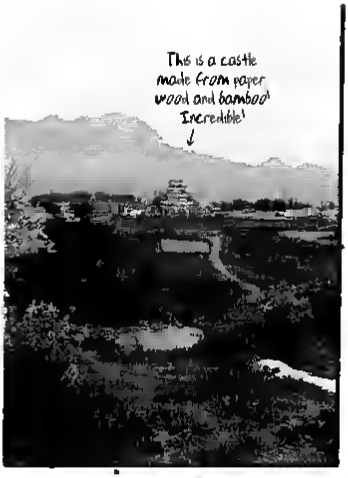
...

YOUR NAME IS ..?


Ah


I'M NATSUKI
Since I'm a woman now
EH...?
WELL—

A sudden warning bell rang instinctively.
This guy's incredible... I can feel that he's a dangerous man.



A festival for the rebellion was held when I went to Harajuu the last time, and a lot of people gathered around the trail of Harajuu. An enormous castle made from paper, wood and bamboo was built. The size of it was so huge that it seemed as if a real castle was being built from afar, so I couldn't help it and laughed (I'm sorry). But there was also a Masked Rider's show... What a peaceful carnival for a rebellion.

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1637 Volume 5 Chapter 19

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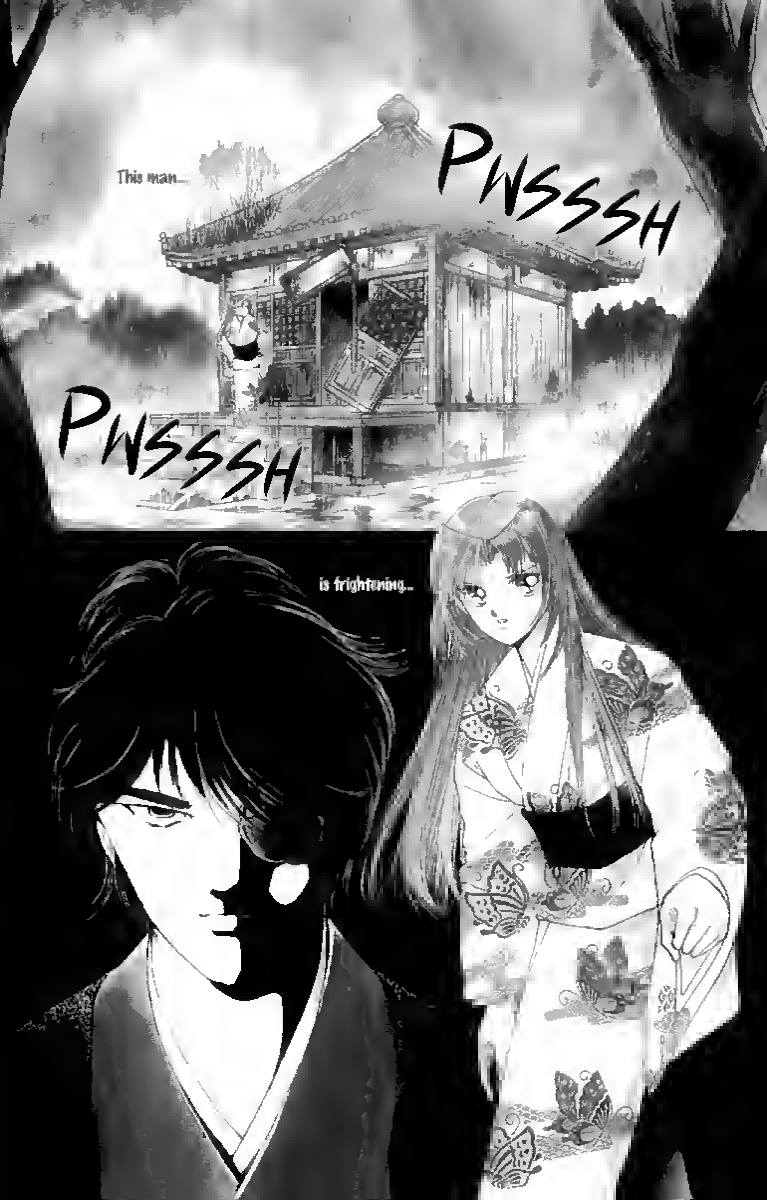
This man...
PWSSSH
PWSSSH
is frightening...

It's not that I sense an intention to kill,
but rather it's as if a hole has opened in the midst of darkness.
What is.. this feeling..?
I've never met anyone like him
It's as if this man is...

'Death' itself—

He looks extremely extremely like him.
This visual of a one-eyed man is frequently seen in historical dramas, and he resembles that man'
Furthermore, he is one-eyed.
YOU WERE SAYING, 'MIYAMOTO FROM KOKURA'
No kidding
Did I say too much earlier? I only remember talking about my dreams of death though
WELL... EH...
IS THAT MAN EARLIER MIYAMOTO MUSASHI?
This is bad He overheard our conversation.
I'm actually meeting 'that man' in such a place.

COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE HERE TO SEE GOD'S MESSENGER?
WELL... IT SEEMS SO ARE YOU ALSO FROM THE AREA AROUND EDO? YOU HAVE AN EDO ACCENT
Oh I see. He thought that we came from Kokura to Shimabara for an investigation.
DOES MIYAMOTO-DONO HAVE SOME BUSINESS IN SHIMABARA?
WELL... MAYBE...
REALLY ?
SO IT'S NOT EASY TO SEE HIM?
But that said person is here though.
AH...
NO——
ARE YOU TOO HERE TO MEET GOD'S MESSENGER?
WELL... I GUESS SO
I ONLY HEARD ABOUT THE RUMOR.

YOU... WILL NOT LEAVE HIM BE?
WELL... ERM,
IF 'GOD'S MESSENGER' IS HERE, DOES SHOGUN-SAMA INTEND TO KILL HIM?
OF COURSE
In short, aren't you here to kill me?
WELL OF COURSE—
.....
.....
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There..
Something
is there.
I have a
bad feeling...
Ah? What's this?
I don't have
my dagger
with me.
This is bad.
TUGG
A snake!

SFX: STABS
SPATTERS

He's the fastest I've seen in this era with his sword
The speed which he pulled his sword was swift
YOU DID TOO...
DID YOU NOTICE IT?
AH!
SPIN...THROWS
He didn't even look when he threw his sword.
SPIN...NAILS
THERE'S NO MORE...
YE...YES

IS IT ALRIGHT FOR MIYAMOTO MUSASHI'S WOMAN TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
YES... I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT... BUT I'M DEFINITELY SURE ABOUT THIS
YOU ARE... STRONG
YOU ARE PROBABLY THE STRONGEST OF ALL THE PEOPLE I'VE MET
I'M COMING! PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE
Miyamoto.
NATSUKI!! I'VE GOT THE UMBRELLA.
YOU... YOU ARE...

YOU ARE STRONG, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM HAPPY
YOU ARE 'YAGYU JUBEE'-SAN", AREN'T YOU? PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST AT YOUR JOB
WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL ME?
WELL, LET'S LIVE HAPPIER AND LONGER, YAGYU-SAN.
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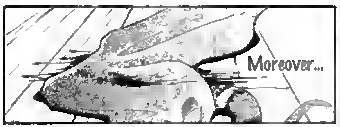
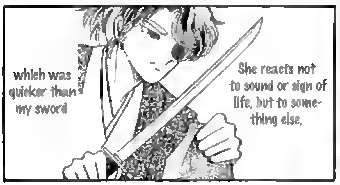
*note: Yakyu Jubee (1607-1650) was an assassin in the early Edo period who worked for Tokugawa Iemitsu.

Why does she know about my name--?
That girl.. Her name is...Natsuki.


Moreover...


which was quicker than my sword
She reacts not to sound or sign of life, but to something else.

What was that...?
SEE YOU AROUND

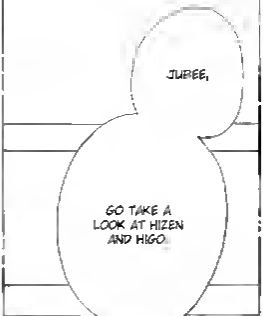
Why did she say such a thing to a complete stranger?
YOU DON'T SEEM HAPPY

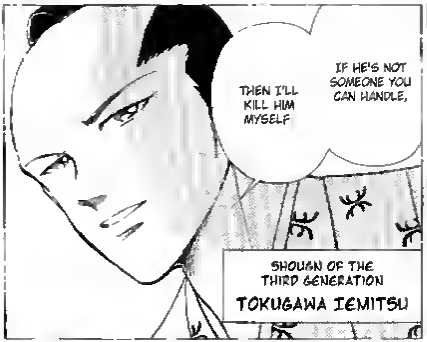
What was that...?

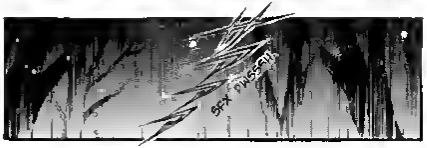
Yagyu Jubee
NATSUKI?
IS THERE SOMEONE IN THERE? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SASH?
OHH, THERE WAS A SNAKE
DID YOU KNOW THAT VIPERS HATE BLUE DYE?
VIPERS?!
I'M SORRY THAT I LEFT YOU ALONE BY YOURSELF
IT'S ALRIGHT
If I were to fight that man, would I win?

JUBEE!
JUBEE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WHY DID YOU SLIT YOUR OWN FACE?!
WHAT A THING TO DO!

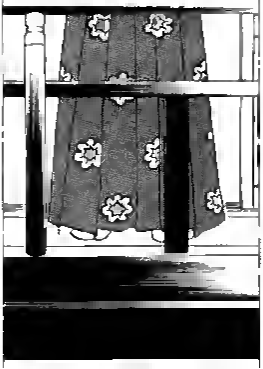
KILL HIM
IF GOD'S MESSENGER IS NOT SOMEONE WORTH CAPTURING


JUBEE,
GO TAKE A LOOK AT HIZEN AND HIGO.


IF HE'S NOT SOMEONE YOU CAN HANDLE,
THEN I'LL KILL HIM MYSELF
SHOGUN OF THE THIRD GENERATION
TOKUGAWA IEMITSU

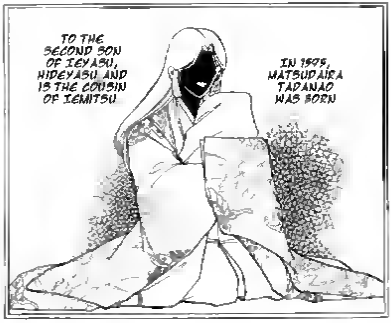

SFX: PASSING

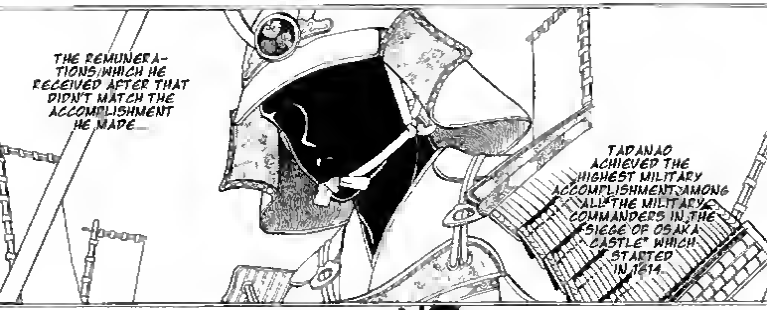
.....



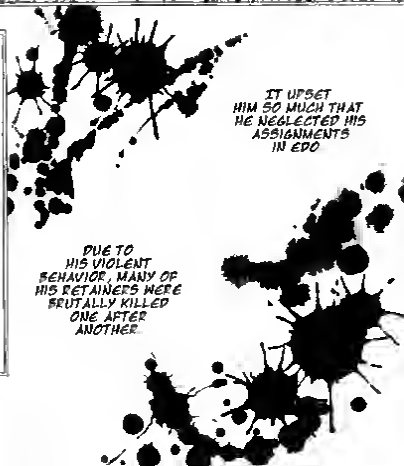
HEY— SO—
WHAT DO WE SAY TO MATSUDAIRA TADANAO WHEN WE MEET HIM?
DO WE SAY "PLEASE BE OUR ALLY"?
UH IT'S IMPRACTICAL TO BE FRANK, ISN'T IT?
TADANAO HAS NO SOLDIERS WHICH HE CAN DEPLOY HAS HE?
YES HE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY
THERE MAY BE GENERALS WHO WOULD FIGHT WITH US IF THEY WERE TO KNOW THAT TADANAO HAS TAKEN OUR SIDE
HOWEVER, HE'S A WISE LORD IN THIS LOCALITY AND IF HE'S REALLY A KIND-HEARTED MAN HE MAY HEAR US OUT
WE CAN ONLY TAKE OUR CHANCE ON THAT HE'S A KIND-HEARTED PERSON
IF HE'S A RAVING MAD LORD WE'LL JUST LEAVE AT ONCE
BUT THERE IS NO WAY THAT HE'D LEND HIS NAME SO EASILY
RIGHT...
WE ARE TAKING A CHANCE

HE TOOK THE FOURTH DAUGHTER OF SHOGUN, HIDETADA, AS HIS WIFE
IN 1607, HIS FATHER, HIDEYASU DIED AND TADANAO INHERITED HIS PATRIMONY

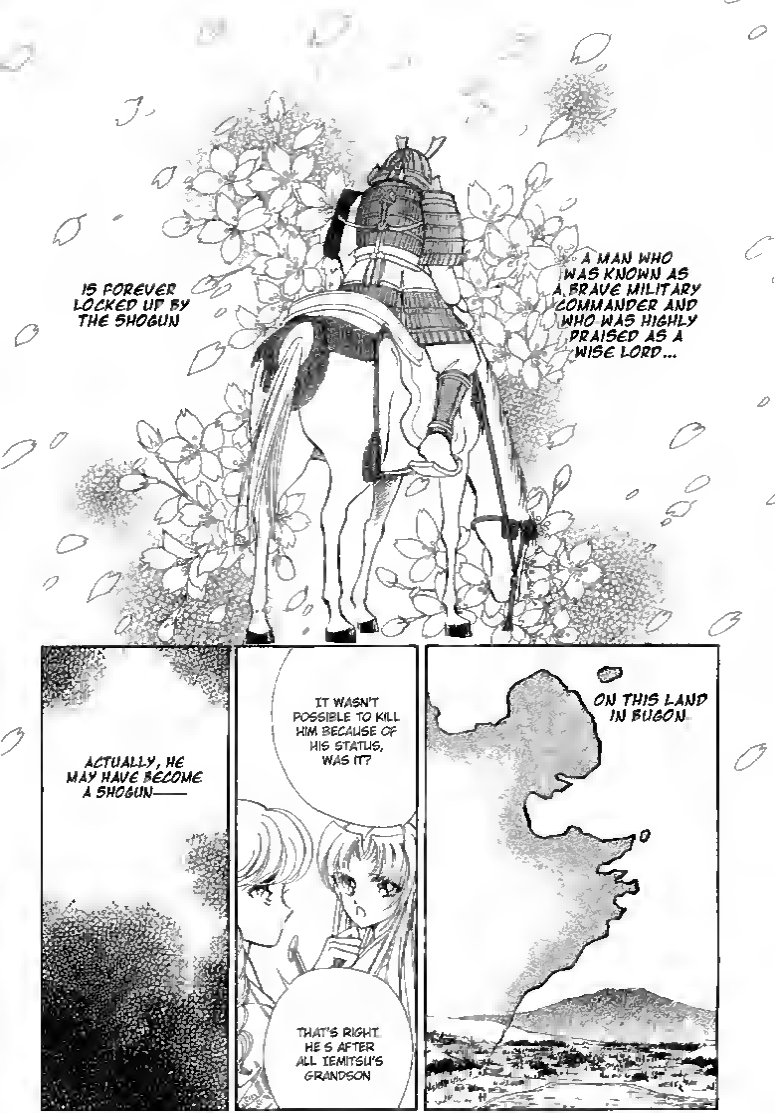



THE REMUNERATIONS WHICH HE RECEIVED AFTER THAT DIDN'T MATCH THE ACCOMPLISHMENT HE MADE...
TADANAO ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST MILITARY ACCOMPLISHMENT AMONG ALL THE MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THE "SIEGE OF OSAKA CASTLE" WHICH STARTED IN 1614

AND RUMOR HAD IT THAT THAT MAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN TADANAO
ON THE OTHER HAND, A MISSIONARY PRIEST, ARMANDO FERNANDEZ, HAD RECORDED THAT HE HAD BAPTIZED A COUSIN OF THE SHOGUN.'


IT UPSET HIM SO MUCH THAT HE NEGLECTED HIS ASSIGNMENTS IN EDO
DUE TO HIS VIOLENT BEHAVIOR, MANY OF HIS RETAINERS WERE BRUTALLY KILLED ONE AFTER ANOTHER...

*note. The Seige of Osaka Castle happened from 1614 and lasted till 1615
It was a battle Tokugawa had against the Toyotomi House whom he saw as a threat to his sovereign.


A MAN WHO WAS KNOWN AS A BRAVE MILITARY COMMANDER AND WHO WAS HIGHLY PRAISED AS A WISE LORD...
IS FOREVER LOCKED UP BY THE SHOGUN
ON THIS LAND IN BUSON
IT WASN'T POSSIBLE TO KILL HIM BECAUSE OF HIS STATUS, WAS IT?
ACTUALLY, HE MAY HAVE BECOME A SHOGUN——
THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S AFTER ALL IEMITSU'S GRANDSON

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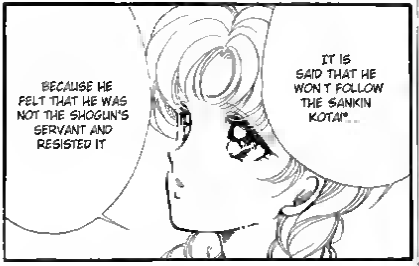
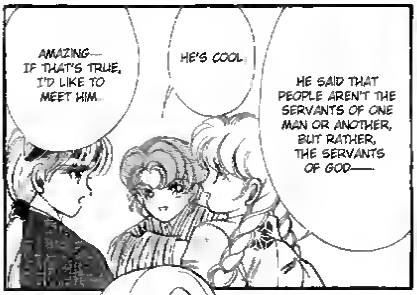
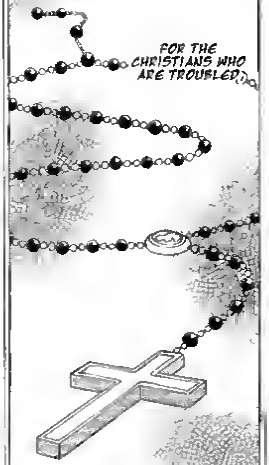



HE SAID THAT PEOPLE AREN'T THE SERVANTS OF ONE MAN OR ANOTHER, BUT RATHER, THE SERVANTS OF GOD——
HE'S COOL
AMAZING— IF THAT'S TRUE, I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.



*note: Sankin Kotai is a control policy instituted by the Shogun of Edo period on the military commanders under him. The main objective was to weaken them financially by making these commanders living between Edo and their clans in alternate year. The commanders also had to serve the Shogun during their stay in Edo.

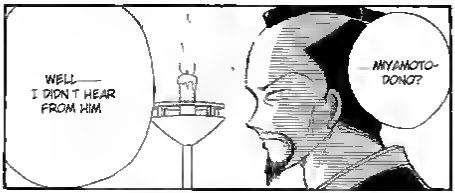
Those guys are kind of mysterious.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING—
That girl from last night...
I HEARD THAT GOD'S MESSENGER HAS APPEARED IN NABESHIMA TOO?
SHH——
HI MISTER, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR LODGING?
OUR INN IS CHEAP—

HE MOST PROBABLY IS—— AND IT'S SAID THAT HE IS WITH THAT MIYAMOTO MUSASHI
Miyamoto?
I HEARD THAT HE SAVED MOTOSHIGE-SAMA'S LIFE
THAT'S NOT ALL. IT SEEMS THAT HE EVEN ENTERED THE CASTLE AND BEAT UP THOSE THIEVES FROM RYUZOJI
IS HE THAT STRONG?
HEY, HEY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MIYAMOTO FROM KOKURA?
THERE IS NO WAY THAT HE'D HANG AROUND WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT!
ISN'T THAT A SMOKE SCREEN?
If that's true——
WELL——
MUSASHI AND MOTOSHIGE-SAMA ARE ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER.
SO THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.

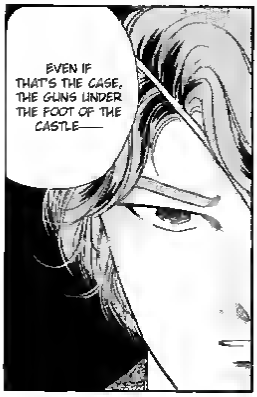
So, is that fellow God's messenger——?
In that group there's Miyamoto three women, and one other man.
HIZEN – SAGA HAN
SAGA CASTLE
NABESHIMA KATSUSHIGE
MY, OH MY, YAGYU-DONO, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME
YES, IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, KATSUSHIGE-DONO.
Is that girl a friend of God's messenger——?
IF 'GOD'S MESSENGER' IS REALLY HERE, DO YOU INTEND TO KILL HIM?
If they are really friends where are they heading? Kokura?
What were they doing in Nabeshima——?

MOTOSHIGE IS NOT SERIOUSLY HURT AND HE HAS ALREADY RECOVERED
THE SITUATIONS AROUND SHIMABARA HAVE BEEN UNSTABLE AND I WONDER WHAT IS GOING ON

I WAS CHECKING ON THE SITUATIONS IN HIZEN AND HIGO WHEN I CAME BY THE FOOT OF YOUR CASTLE
AND OVER-HEARD THAT MOTOSHIGE-SAMA IS IN-JURED SO I'D COME TO PAY MY VISIT


MIYAMOTO-DONO?
WELL—— I DIDN'T HEAR FROM HIM

HAVE YOU ALSO SEEN MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO FROM KOKURA—? HAS HE COME TO VISIT MOTO-SHIGE-DONO WHO IS HURT?


EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE GUNS UNDER THE FOOT OF THE CASTLE——

SORRY TO HAVE ASKED
IS THAT SO...?
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT

IT SEEMS THAT YOUR PEOPLE ARE WORKING OVERNIGHT.
There are sounds of sword-fighting in the castle.
and the foot of it is bustling with activities.
Hum
IS HE PRETENDING THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW?
WE ARE MAKING TRIBUNALS FOR SHOGUNATE'S FAMILY AS USUAL AND NOTHING ELSE
Hahaha
THIS IS WHAT THE NABE-SHIMA HOUSE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DOING
The Nabeshima House which Motoshige and Mitsushige are contesting for is transforming

Who has changed the Nabeshima House?
What's happening?
Could it be him?
God's messenger——
Maybe he's not someone who I can handle——
IT SEEMS THAT IEMITSU-SAMA IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT 'GOD'S MESSENGER'
OOH MOTO-SHIGE MY STOMACH TURNED TO ICE
JUST NOW—— I DIDN'T EXPECT YAGYU JUBEE TO COME——
FATHER, THAT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE

THAT MAN WOULD BE FINE EVEN IF HE MEETS JUBEE, WOULDN'T HE?
IT'S BEST THAT WE KEEP IT DOWN FURTHER
HE EVEN KNOWS THAT WE ARE MAKING GUNS——
UHM...
HE'D BE ALRIGHT HE'S NEVERTHELESS THAT MAN...
Where is he heading?
SFX CLIP CLOP
God's messenger!
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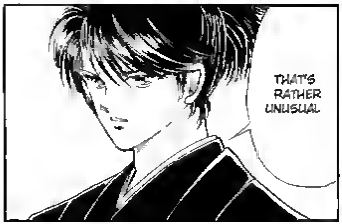
BUNGO TSUMORI
IPPAKU-SAMA, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS
THANK YOU, EVERYONE
OOOH
THANK YOU
IPPAKU-SAMA, AND THIS TOO.
IPPAKU-SAMA, PLEASE ACCEPT THESE FOOD AS WELL.

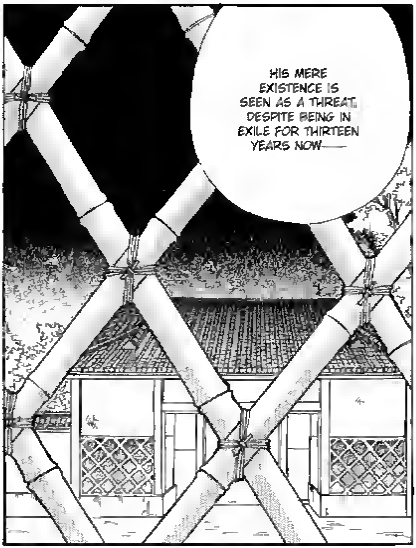
Yes...
He's amazing.
YES, THAT'S TRUE. THERE WON'T BE ANYONE WHO IS AS KIND AS HIM.
IPPAKU-SAMA HAS SOME KIND OF ELEGANT SMILE DOESN'T HE?
SHH—H!
IF HE'S OUR LORD—
HUH? HE'S NOT A CHRISTIAN?
THAT IS WHAT MATSU-DAIRA TADANAO IS CALLED WHEN HE BECAME A PRIEST.
SHH—H
THEY WERE RAVING ABOUT HIM WITH ADMI-RATION.
DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT?
HMPH—
THAT'S AFTER ALL A RUMOR IN THE FUTURE
WHY DO THEY CALL HIM IPPAKU-SAMA?

NO MAN CAN EVEN PASS THROUGH
THAT IS INCREDIBLE— THE SECURITY IS TIGHT EVEN AT NIGHT

HEY! STOP THERE! YOU CAN'T PASS THROUGH HERE! TURN BACK!


THAT'S RATHER UNUSUAL

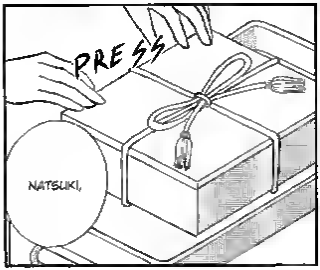
ALRIGHT... IT JUST HAS TO BE THAT.


HIS MERE EXISTENCE IS SEEN AS A THREAT, DESPITE BEING IN EXILE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS NOW——

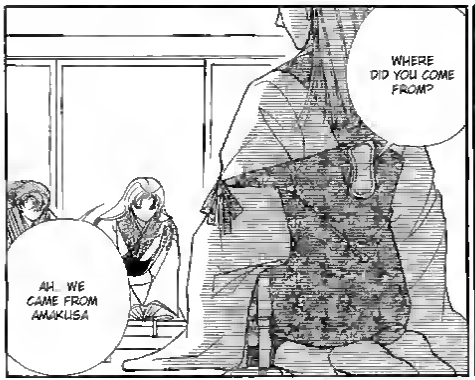
IS THAT GOING TO WORK?
BE CARE-FUL
WE ARE GOING
CLANG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
A PLATE?
WE ARE HERE TO OFFER A POR-CELAIN PLATE TO IPPAKU-SAMA
OOH... THIS IS SUCH AN EX-CELLENT PIECE OF WORK...

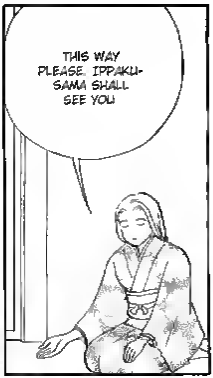
SHH—H
THEY WENT IN.

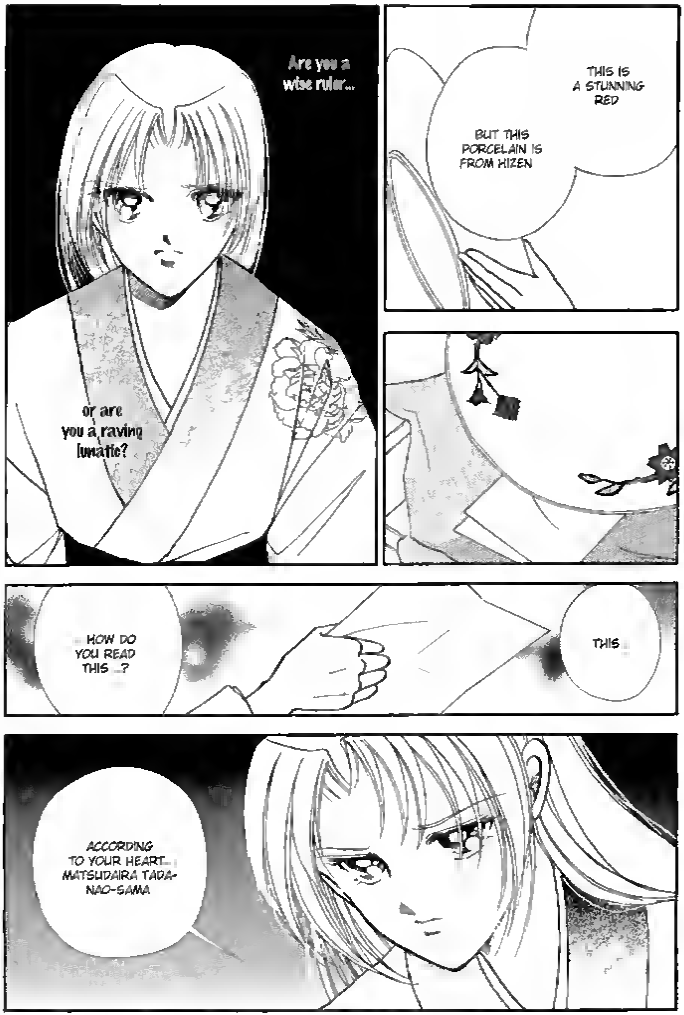
GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


PRESS
NATSUKI,

YES. WITH EYES WIDE OPEN.
DID YOU PUT IT IN PROPERLY?


AH. WE CAME FROM AMAKUSA.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?


THIS WAY PLEASE. IPPAKU-SAMA SHALL SEE YOU.


Are you a wise ruler...
or are you a raving lunatic?
THIS IS A STUNNING RED
BUT THIS PORCELAIN IS FROM HIZEN
HOW DO YOU READ THIS ...?
THIS
ACCORDING TO YOUR HEART... MATSUDAIRA TADA-NAO-SAMA

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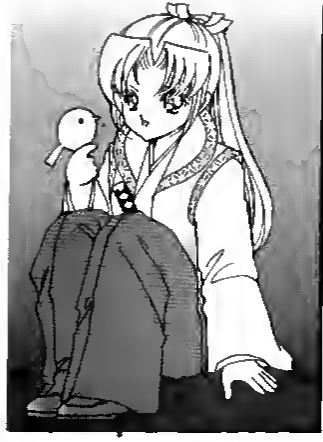

TADANAO WHO INHERITED THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA AND BECAME THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, DIED WHEN HE WAS ONLY 23 YEARS OLD. HIS SON MITSUSHIGE WAS HOWEVER SEEMED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE GHOST CAT INCIDENT AND THAT'S THE BOY CHARACTER IN THIS BOOK. THAT CHILD KILLED THE PEOPLE OF THE RYUZOUJI RACE WHEN HE GREW UP AND THE GRUDGE SEEMED TO DEVELOP INTO THE GHOST CAT DISTURBANCE. IF MITSUSHIGE WAS A GOOD LORD, SUCH COMMOTION WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED. THE PRIDE OF NABESHIMA WAS ITS WEAPON WHICH WAS THRIVING DURING THE LAST DAYS OF TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE. THEIR GUNS WERE REALLY—— INCREDIBLE

Brought to you by:

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1637 Volume 5 Chapter 20

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AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MASAHIRO AKAMATSU PRESENTS
Chapter 20

He's sort of...
This man is Matsudaira Tadanao-sama.
.kind-looking.

I HEAR THAT THE FAMINE IS SERIOUS IN AMAKUSA'S AREA.
HE.. HE'S KIND OF... IN-CREDIBLE.
RUSTLES
YES, OVER 30,000 PEOPLE ARE ON THE VERGE OF DYING. EVEN IN SHIMABARA'S AREA..
LIGHTS
I SEE.

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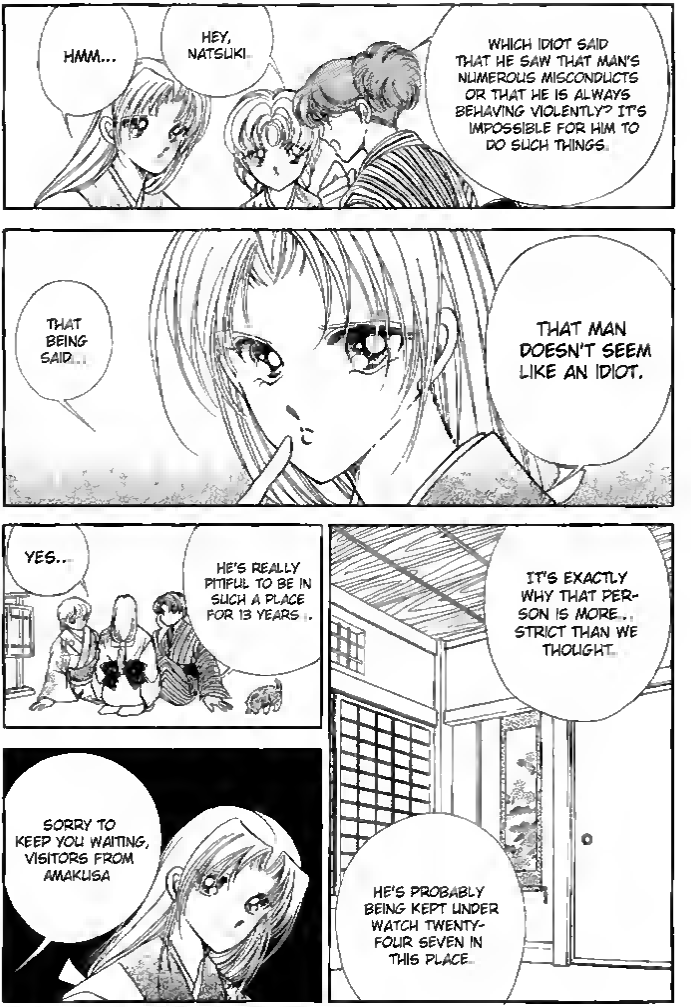
Outside the screen...
no, not only that but also along the corridor
and behind the papered sliding door, there will be someone straining his ears, eavesdropping
GLANCES
This place is
without lattices,
but it's definitely a prison.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
MY WHOLE LIFE WILL END HERE.
I CAN'T GO WITH YOU TO SEE THE OCEANS OF AMAKUSA, CAN I?
He seems to have understood
just by hearing the name 'Amakusa' and seeing this cross on the note.
He knows why we had come.
IPPAKU-SAMA.

I SEE
A MESSENGER FROM USA SHRINE HAS COME TO SEE YOU. IT'S REGARDING A SUDDEN CHINEKISAI*——
*TN. CHINEKISA IS A TRADITIONAL RITUAL PERFORMED IN USA SHRINE TO QUELL DISASTER AND EPIDEMICS
DID YOU SEE THAT?
AH. SURE.
SAY, DOESN'T HE SEEM REALLY BENEVOLENT——?
HE'S SO COOL——
PLEASE WAIT FOR A WHILE. THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU.


HMM...
HEY, NATSUKI.
WHICH IDIOT SAID THAT HE SAW THAT MAN'S NUMEROUS MISCONDUCTS OR THAT HE IS ALWAYS BEHAVING VIOLENTLY? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO SUCH THINGS.
THAT BEING SAID...
THAT MAN DOESN'T SEEM LIKE AN IDIOT.
YES...
HE'S REALLY PITIFUL TO BE IN SUCH A PLACE FOR 13 YEARS...
IT'S EXACTLY WHY THAT PERSON IS MORE... STRICT THAN WE THOUGHT.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, VISITORS FROM AMAKUSA
HE'S PROBABLY BEING KEPT UNDER WATCH TWENTY-FOUR SEVEN IN THIS PLACE.

So Tadamao-sama, you can get out of here——
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE TOO, SINCE I LAST WENT OUT.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR THE INTERRUPTION. THERE IS A DISEASE GOING AROUND HERE RECENTLY SO WE WILL BE HOLDING A CHINEKISAI IN THE USA SHRINE.
THE HACHIMAN-STYLED* SHRINE IS MAGNIFICENT.
VISITORS FROM AMAKUSA, HOW ABOUT JOINING ME TO VISIT THE USA SHRINE? PLEASE, DO COME.
*TN: A STYLE OF SHRINE ARCHITECTURE WHICH FROM THE SIDE-VIEW GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF TWO SEPARATE BUILDINGS WITH PARALLEL RIDGES
He's saying, "Let's meet."
WELL, OF COURSE. PLEASE DO LET US JOIN YOU TO VISIT THE SHRINE.
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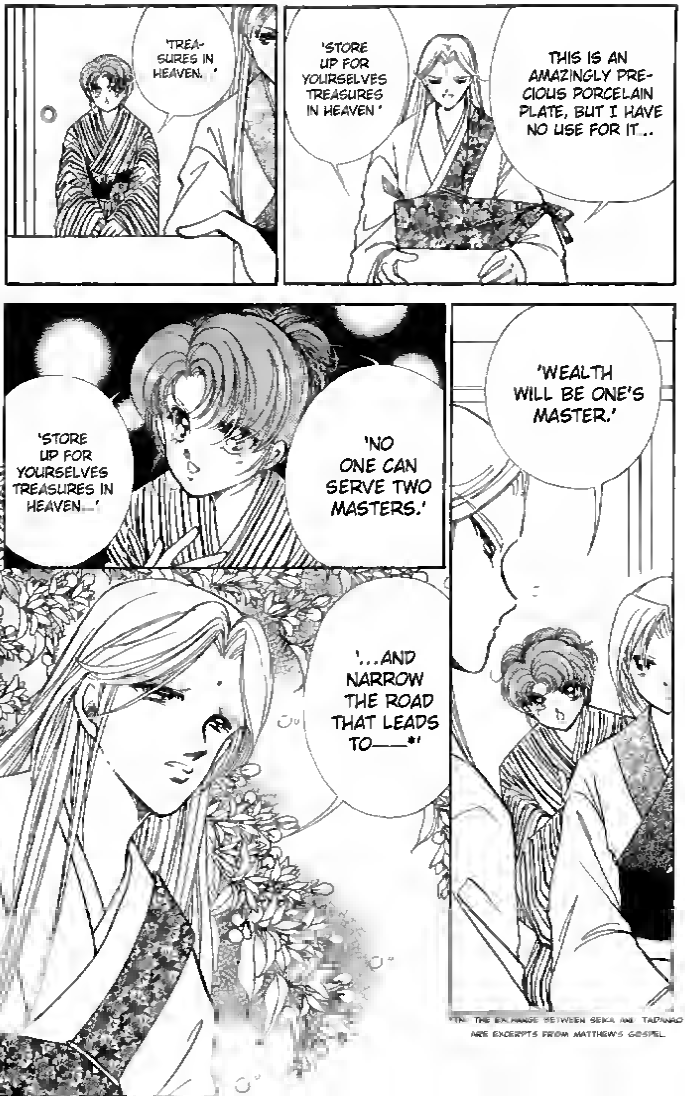
NOW... THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU.
TADANAO-SAMA..?
I APPRE-CIATE YOUR THOUGHTS, BUT PLEASE USE THIS FOR YOURSELVES INSTEAD.
THIS IS THE PORCELAIN PLATE THAT WE BROUGHT WITH US.
SNAP
ポトン
SFX DROPS


'TREASURES IN HEAVEN.'
'STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN'
THIS IS AN AMAZINGLY PRECIOUS PORCELAIN PLATE, BUT I HAVE NO USE FOR IT..
'STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN...'
'NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS.'
'WEALTH WILL BE ONE'S MASTER.'
'...AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO——*'

*TN: THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN SEIKA AND TADAHIRO ARE EXCERPTS FROM MATTHEW'S GOSPEL.

SFX: SLAP
I'M PUNISHING YOU.
SEI-- SEIKA, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
NATSUKI... THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE SLEEPING ALL THE TIME DURING MASS.
BUT THAT PHRASE...
I THINK I HEARD IT SOMEWHERE...
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO RETURN US THE PORCELAIN PLATE
THAT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP CRYING TO HAVE HEARD MATTHEW'S GOSPEL IN SUCH A PLACE AS THIS!
AH! THAT'S MATTHEW'S GOSPEL.
'STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN.'
'YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MONEY.'

AAH! THE 'STRAIT GATE'!
WHAT FOLLOWS IS 'BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO GOD'S KINGDOM, AND ONLY A FEW WILL FIND IT—'
SO IT REALLY MEANS THAT—THAT PERSON IS A CHRISTIAN?
YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT THAT.
PERHAPS HE IS ALSO BEING LOCKED UP IN THAT PLACE ON FALSE CRIMES FOR 13 YEARS.

IT SEEMS LIKE A MAP
AH, THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THE FLOWERS
SFX RUSTLE
EVEN SO, WHAT'S WITH THESE FLOWERS...?
*TN: TOWNS CITES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SHOGUN IN THE EDO PERIOD
IT'S FUNAI*.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK? IS IT NEAR HERE?
YES, IT'S RATHER NEARBY.
But why Funai...?
SFX CLIP
SFX CLOMP
SFX CLIP
LET'S GO, ERI
AH RIGHT

HEY, DID YOU SEE A PECULIAR GROUP OF TWO MEN AND THREE WOMEN AROUND THIS AREA?
ONE OF THE MAN HAS A HUGE BIRD WITH HIM.
HI MISTER, DO YOU NEED LODGING?
AH—YES, I SAW THEM.
THEY HAD ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS.
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THEY HAD ASKED WHERE TSUMORI* IS
*THE TSUMORI IS IN THE WEST OF OSAKA.
TSUMORI.
JUST AS I SUSPECTED...
Tsumori is where Matsudaira Tadanao resides—

If only he wasn't a Christian——
If not for that one problem, that man could have become a general.
Matsudaira Tadanao was a highly praised wise lord and the head of the Echizen Clan.
he still poses a threat to the Shogun——
Although he has been locked up in Bungo
all the Christians and those commanders who silently harbored resentment toward Iemitsu-sama would definitely have turned against the Shogun.
If Tadanao were to step forward,

*THE HACHIMAN ALSO KNOWN AS YAHATA, IS THE GUARDIAN GOD OF THE [illegible] CLAN AND THE SAMURAI'S

HAH..
USA SHRINE IS SAID TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HACHIMAN SHRINE*.
HE BECAME A PRIEST, HASN'T HE?
SAY—ABOUT THE CHINEKISAI——IT'S HELD IN USA SHRINE, SO WILL TADANAO-SAMA GO?
BY THE WAY, DEITY HACHIMAN IS ALSO SAID TO BE THE GOD TO PAY HOMAGE TO BEFORE GOING TO WAR.
BUT CHRISTIAN FEUDAL LORDS MIGHT HAVE SET FIRE TO THE USA SHRINE
I...SOMEWHAT DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS AT ALL.
ERI, YOU EVEN KNOW SUCH STUFF.
ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE?
AND DEITY HACHIMAN IS SAID TO BE THE DEITY THAT INTEGRATED BUDDHISM AND SHINTO*
IN THE BEGINNING IT WAS SAID THAT DEITY HACHIMAN HAD LONG-AGO ARRIVED UPON PLACES IN [illegible]A.

*IN SHINTO IS THE INDIGENOUS RELIGION OF JAPAN

WHAT ABOUT FOREIGNERS, ALIENS, AND PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE?
SO THE DEITY HAD ARRIVED ..
SUCH AN INCREDIBLE INDIVIDUAL HAD COME HERE A LONG TIME AGO
——BUT WE'RE LIVING PROOF OF SUCH STUFF.
THAT'S SCIENCE FICTION
SFX: CLACK
HURRY! OMATSU, HURRY UP! THIS WAY!
SFX: CLACK
AH, IS IT OVER THERE?
I CAN SEE A HUGE TREE
AH!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
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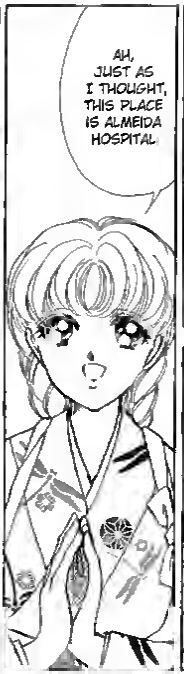
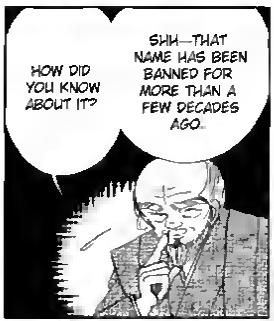
THAT CHILD ... HE SEEMS TO HAVE HIGH FEVER.
HURRY, HURRY UP, OMATSU! THIS WAY.
WHAT?
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
A HOSPITAL OVER THERE.
HOSPITAL?
DOCTOR, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK OVER HERE TOO.
GOOD EVENING.
DOCTOR!

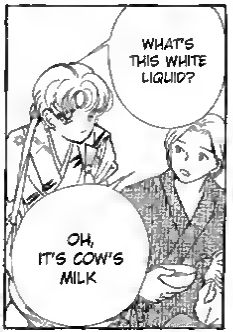
WATCH OUT.
SOME-BODY, COME AND DRY HIS BODY
PLEASE CHANGE THE WATER
WE CAME FROM AMAKUSA. IPPAKU-SAMA TOLD US ABOUT THIS PLACE
HUH? WHO ARE YOU? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE
THE SICK ARE FILLING UP THE WHOLE PLACE
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? IS THIS ALL BECAUSE OF THE DISEASE?
OH SO IPPAKU-SAMA TOLD YOU?
SAY I HEARD THAT THERE ARE SOME-WHAT VARIOUS SYMPTOMS AND IT SEEMS LIKE INFLUENZA
INFLUENZA?
THE SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE HAS MADE HIS HEART HURT WITH WORRY
IPPAKU-SAMA ALWAYS LENDS US A HAND SECRETLY

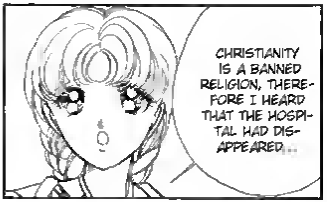
HEY, THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE, YOU'D BETTER PUT ON A MASK!
ERI, DO YOU HAVE BUFFERIN*?
WELL, THAT WON'T DO WE MUST BOIL THE WATER AND WET THIS
IT'S BETTER TO BOIL THIS

*TN: BUFFERIN IS A PATCH FORM OF MEDICINE FOR FEVER MADE IN JAPAN



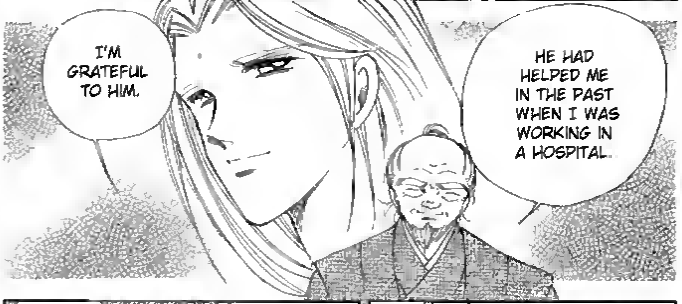




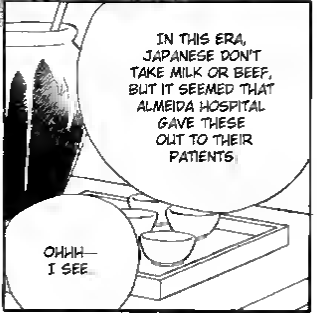

CHRISTIANITY IS A BANNED RELIGION, THEREFORE I HEARD THAT THE HOSPITAL HAD DISAPPEARED...

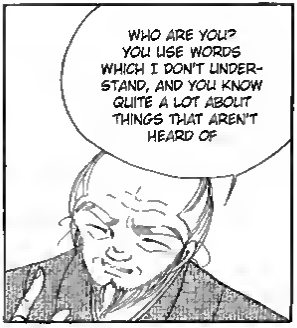
LUIS DE ALMEIDA WAS A MISSIONARY AND THIS IS THE FIRST HOSPITAL HE BUILT IN JAPAN AT FUNAI.
WHAT'S WITH ALMEIDA HOSPITAL?

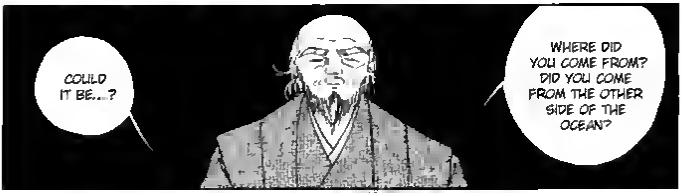
IT WAS IPPAKU-SAMA WHO SECRETLY RESTORED THE HOSPITAL WHEN HE CAME HERE

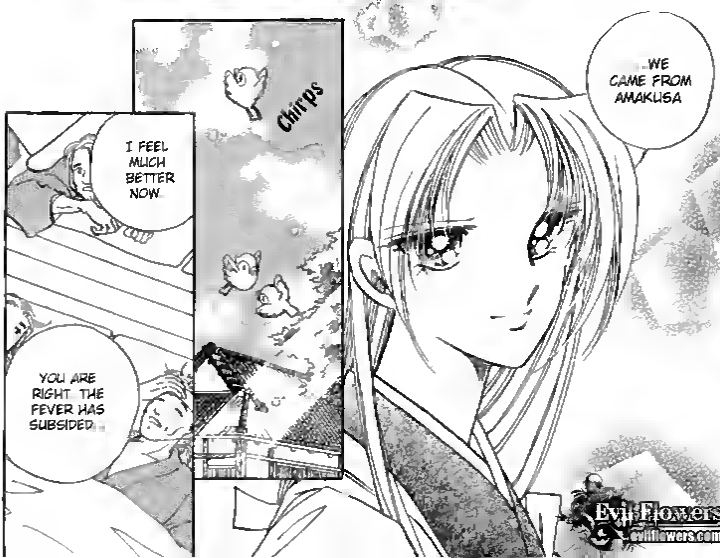

I'M GRATEFUL TO HIM.
HE HAD HELPED ME IN THE PAST WHEN I WAS WORKING IN A HOSPITAL.

YES, MAYBE WE CAN DO THAT. SHALL WE TRY?
HEY, PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE STEW?
AH...YOU PEOPLE


IN THIS ERA, JAPANESE DON'T TAKE MILK OR BEEF, BUT IT SEEMED THAT ALMEIDA HOSPITAL GAVE THESE OUT TO THEIR PATIENTS.
OHHH— I SEE.







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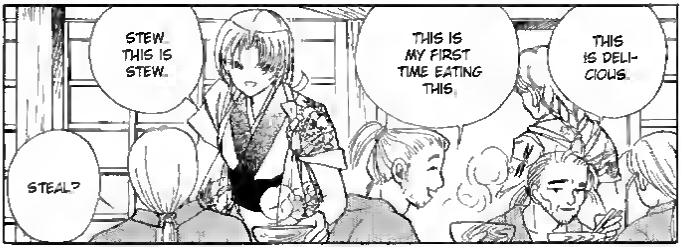

STEW... THIS IS STEW...
STEAL?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME EATING THIS.
THIS IS DELI-CIOUS.

IT SEEMS THAT IPPAKU-SAMA WANTED YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PLACE
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT GETTING YOU A LODGING LAST NIGHT. THIS PLACE USED TO HOUSE A PRIEST.

GOOD MORNING. IPPAKU-SAMA HAS SENT ME HERE.

THESE ARE THE GET-WELL GIFTS FROM IPPAKU-SAMA TO EVERYONE IN THE HOSPITAL.
YOU CAME AND EVEN HELPED OUT IN THE HOSPITAL... THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

...YES, INDEED

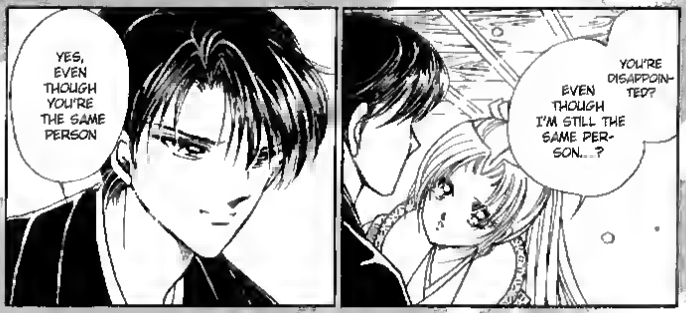
TADANAO-SAMA IS... A REMARKABLE MAN

YES... BUT..
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH IPPAKU-SAMA?
THERE WILL BE THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF PRAYERS AND BURNING INCENSE
BY THE WAY...THE HOLY FIRE WILL BE LIT AT THE USA SHRINE TONIGHT
ISN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO DO...SUCH A THING?
AND THEN. UMM...
DON'T WORRY
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S GOING TO THE USA SHRINE.
AH, WELL.. HE'S NOT HERE NOW
ERR... IS GOD'S MESSENGER.. HERE?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE BEEN PUSHY... PLEASE BE CAREFUL
SHH—H
SO IT'S TRUE THEN, YOU PEOPLE ARE GOD'S—
NATSUKI, THAT'S DANGEROUS
THAT CHILD COULD BE A SPY OF THE SHOGUN
THAT CHILD WON'T BETRAY HIM TADANAO-SAMA IS SURROUNDED WITH MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST LIKE HER
AH?
WELL—I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE FACES OF WOMEN WHO ARE IN LOVE

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE MAKE OUR WAY TO USA SHRINE——
NATSUKI, I'M COMING IN.
THOSE WHO ARE LOVED WILL BE LOVED NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE
SURE.

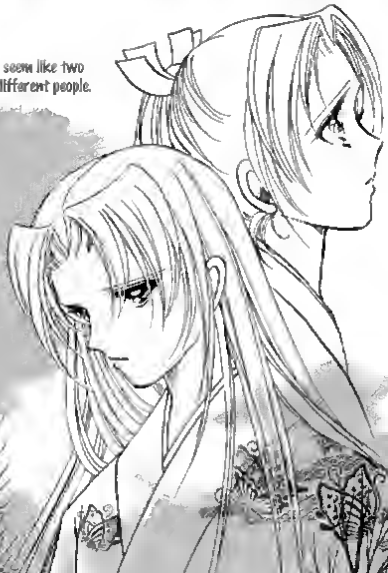
WHAT?
MAYBE I'M DISAPPOINTED.
THAT YOU ARE TURNING BACK TO SHIROU——
NOTHING... IT'S JUST THAT I WAS GETTING USED TO SEEING YOU AS A GIRL.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY GETTING USED TO?



Natsuki and Shirou—

Although that ought to be the case, why do I feel that more than ever before

seem like two different people.



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Even just now it was the same.
Natsuki who has turned into Shirou is somehow distant
It's as if Natsuki's very being seems to shine.

USA SHRINE
IT'S IPPAKU-SAMA.
LOOK, LOOK.
OVER THERE, OVER THERE.
YES—
AAH, HE'S CHARMING.
ドン
ドン
SFX. THUMP

SFX YAAH
SFX. YAAH
SFX WHOOSH
IT STIRS UP THE WIND.
YES, IT HAS.

SFX WHOOSH
SFX EEKS
SFX STOMPS
SFX SNAPS

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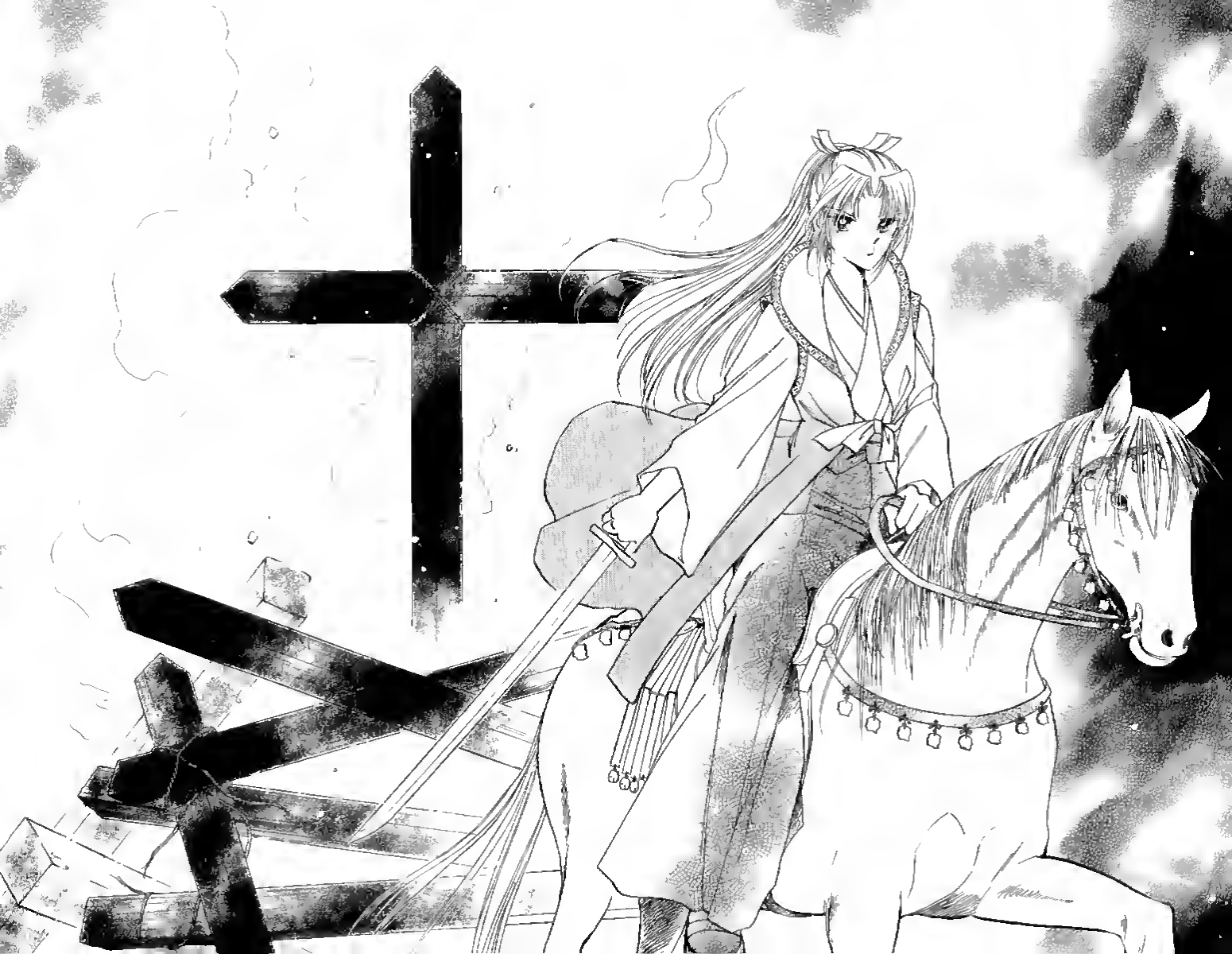
HUH?
WAAH!
UWAH!
WA—H
WAAA—H
ISN'T IT SORT OF CHAOTIC?
SFX: CLOMP
WATCH OUT!

TADANAO-SAMA!
SFX. TROTS
There, it happens again,
the body moves before the mind

SFX: GRABS
CALM DOWN!
Natsuki!
OH.
His hair is burning.
SFX: SWISH

Hooves
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW! CALM DOWN!
CALM DOWN!
GOOD BOY YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT
SFX. STROKES X2
CHATTERS
SFX. CLANKS
THAT- THAT'S...
SEE, SEE THAT...
THE FIRE TOWER IS...
AH...



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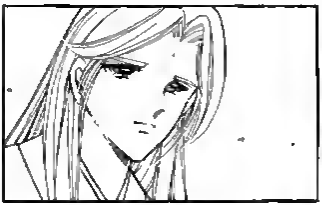

That's Shirou— of Amakusa

I AM SHIROU. OF AMAKUSA

Is he God's messenger—?
PRO-... PROTECT IPPAKU-SAMA!

UWAH!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
DON'T USE THE WORD 'PROTECT' TO LOCK THIS MAN UP!
SFX. SWINGS
SFX. CLIP
SFX. CLOMP
NATSUKI!
SFX. FWISH

I feel that that guy—— is sort of an extraordinary being——
I was thinking that such a being could not possibly be in this world, but——
That's God's messenger——
SFX: CLOP
SFX: CLOP
SHIROU-DONO OF AMAKUSA!

PLEASE TELL ME
TADANAO-SAMA?
Ahhhh
He's at it again I heard this before. Wasn't this from Matthew gospel ?
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME OR ARE WE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER?
I'M SORRY... THAT WAS SAID BY PROPHET JOHANNES OR SOMETHING, WASN'T IT? I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN. I DON'T KNOW THE REPLY EITHER.
WHICH IS ALSO WHY WE'VE COME HERE
BUT TADANAO -SAMA, WE NEED YOU.

WHO NEEDS YOU.
THAT'S WRONG I'M PROBABLY THE ONE——
NEED.. ME?
HUH?
TADANAO... SAMA.
GOD'S KINGDOM WAS NEAR..
BUT I WAS THINKING THAT I WASN'T EVEN ABLE TO FIND THE WAY,...

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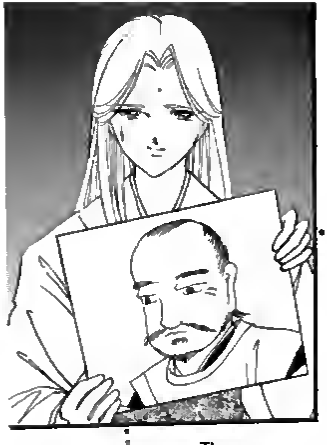

Matsudaira Tadanao-sama is the man who is known as Ippaku-ko in Oita.

There is even a snack named after him and novelist Kikuchi Kan wrote a story called, 'Tadanao-kyō gyojoki' that narrated his demeanour. Movies and television dramas were made from that novel which seems like a story on aristocracy that recounted Tadanao as a loner who committed violent and sexual misconducts. However, there is a saying that Tadanao was a Christian and I created my story based on that. When I was in Oita and learned about the snack named after him, I went to buy it. Ah, the remaining picture of Tadanao-sama doesn't look anything like my drawing. Hahaha

The crazy rabbits!
Evil Flowers' staff!
We need
Japanese
Translators
for all these
projects!!!
Come and join us
If you don't want us
to send the crazy
rabbits after you!!!
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Rewrite 1637 Volume 5 Chapter 21

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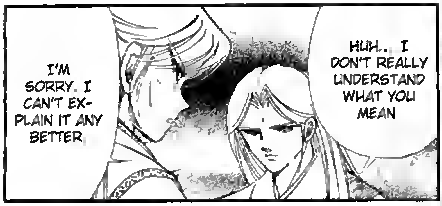
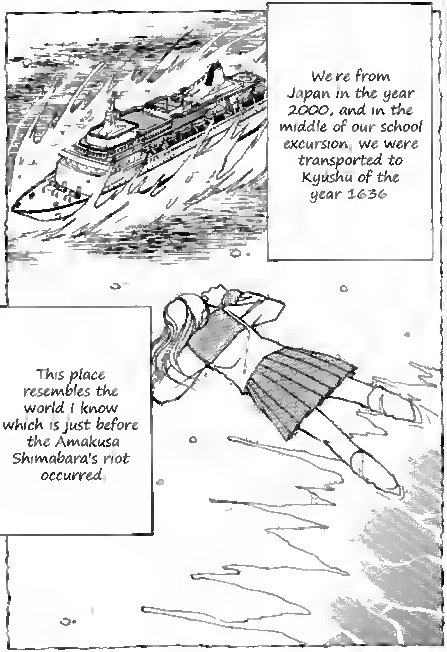
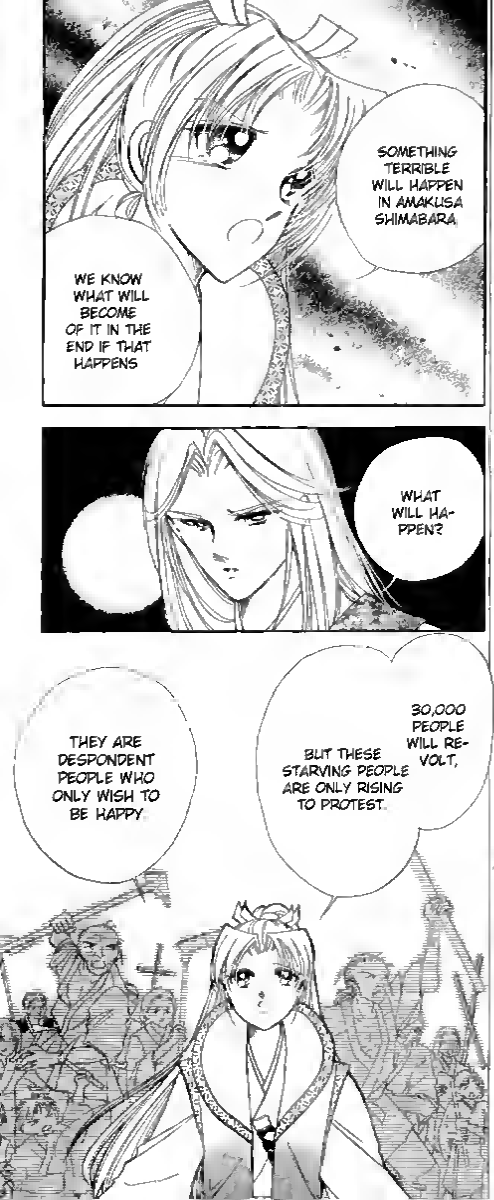
SHIROU DONO OF AMAKUSA.
PLEASE JUST TELL ME...ONE THING.
NO.
I COME FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
IS THAT... PARADISE?


I'M SORRY. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT ANY BETTER.
HUH.. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN

IT'S THE FUTURE.
BUT IT'S NOT THE FUTURE OF THIS PLACE.


We're from Japan in the year 2000, and in the middle of our school excursion, we were transported to Kyushu of the year 1636
This place resembles the world I know which is just before the Amakusa Shimabara's riot occurred.


SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN IN AMAKUSA SHIMABARA
WE KNOW WHAT WILL BECOME OF IT IN THE END IF THAT HAPPENS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN?
30,000 PEOPLE WILL REVOLT,
BUT THESE STARVING PEOPLE ARE ONLY RISING TO PROTEST.
THEY ARE DESPONDENT PEOPLE WHO ONLY WISH TO BE HAPPY.

But since our arrival

history is changing bit by bit

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THESE PEOPLE?
THEY WILL ALL DIE.
!!
THE OLD, THE YOUNG, AND THE WOMEN TOO.
IT'S TRUE— EVERYONE WILL DIE.
IT'S RATHER TERRIFYING...
30,000 PEOPLE?
THESE 30,000 PEOPLE ARE UNITED BY THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH, TADANAO-SAMA.
FOR SOME REASON, EVERYONE CALLS ME GOD'S MESSENGER, BUT I'M NOT A CHRISTIAN.

AND I DIDN'T COME FROM PARADISE
YOU PROBABLY WON'T UNDERSTAND THIS EXACTLY EITHER.
BUT . EVERYTHING HAS STARTED ROLLING.
IT'S BECAUSE... BECAUSE...
IS IT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WALK AWAY FROM THEM?
YES, IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE WILL DIE!
THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

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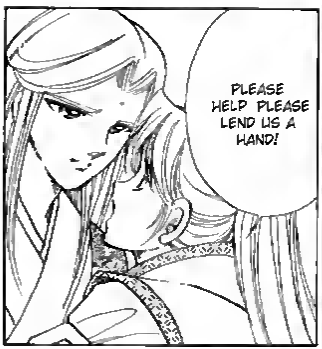

ALRIGHT.

Tha-
That's a quick reply...
HUH...
BUT I HAVE NEITHER THE ARMY NOR THE MONEY.
WHAT I HAVE IS ONLY MY NAME: MATSUDAIRA TADANAO.
TADANAO-SAMA...
IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN BE USED NOW.
SLIDES

WHY AM I STILL ALLOWED TO BE ALIVE? IT'S RATHER BAFFLING.
IT'S PROBABLY— FOR THIS MOMENT THAT I'M LIVING FOR, ISN'T IT?
My
A blood oath...
cuts

I'M GIVING YOU THIS FLUTE TOGETHER
WITH THIS LETTER
A coat of arms with a mallow design
FALLS
My heart resonates together with this man
Matsudaira Tadanao
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THIS...YOU'RE GIVING ME THIS? BUT WE JUST MET TODAY.
Oh!
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
IN THE EVENT THAT THIS FALLS INTO THE WRONG HANDS, TADANAO-SAMA, YOU'LL BE IN DANGER——
WHERE ARE YOU, NATSUKI?!
Clop
Clop
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF FOR SOMEONE WHOSE LIFE HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCARDED.
MIYA-MOTO!

COME WITH US TOO, TADANAO-SAMA!
GO, SHIROU-DONO. THE PURSUERS WILL BE HERE SOON.
I'M ONLY DOING WHAT I CAN DO
I'M RETURNING TO THE RESIDENCE IN TSUMORI.
THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING. I'M MIYAMOTO MASAKI—BUT MY NAME IN THIS PLACE IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI.
SFX. DISMOUNTS

I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR NAME. YOU'RE AN OUTSTANDING AND MATCHLESS SWORDSMAN——
YOU ARE .. MIYAMOTO-DONO.
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS HERE. PLEASE PROTECT THIS MAN.
YES, SIR.
PLEASE STAND UP.
IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO FALL ON YOUR KNEES FOR ANYONE.
EVERYONE IS EQUAL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

LET'S GO, NATSUKI.
GO, HURRY. THE SOUND OF HORSES IS APPROACHING.
TADANAO-SAMA, PLEASE TAKE CARE.
YOU TOO.
SFX: CLIP
SFX: CLOP

SFX: CLOP
SFX: CLIP

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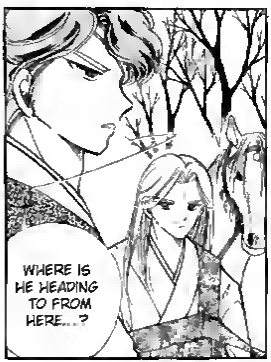


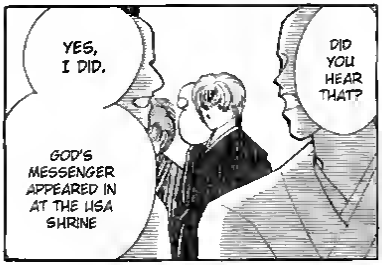
ARE YOU INTENDING TO HIDE HIM?
——ARE YOU PLAYING THE FOOL?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE SHOGUN IEMITSU-SAMA'S, COUSIN, YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE REVOLT OF THE CHRISTIANS
YOUR LIFE WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED THIS TIME——
SIGH...
IT'S ODD THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT THE INSURGENT JUST BECAUSE THERE WAS A MAN WHO HAD SAVED ME AND A CHILD.
OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO BRAG ABOUT AN UNTRUE INSURGENCY AGAIN?
TO HEAVEN.

WHY DON'T YOU SLASH ME HERE, JUBEE-DONO?
THIS TIME IF YOU THINK THAT I'M TAKING PART IN THE INSURGENCY
COME ON!
KILL THIS MATSUDAIRA TADANAO!
IF YOU'RE NOT DOING IT, I'LL BE OFF I HAVE TO RETURN THE HORSE TO THE SHRINE
TADANAO-SAMA

JaBEE-DONO
WHAT WAS IT... THAT HAD EVEN STIRRED YOUR HEART?
ARE YOU ALSO SOMEONE WHO IS BEING CONTROLLED BY DESPAIR...?
HAH...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
THOSE WHO CAN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF HOPE DON'T REALIZE THAT THEY'RE LIVING IN PITCH DARKNESS.

MAY PEACE AND HAPPINESS BE UPON YOUR HEART
IPPAKU-SAMA
IPPAKU-SAMA——
OOH, YOU'VE COME TO PICK ME UP
What was that?
MOUNTS

Was that a Christian's prayer?
If Jûbee delivers his report,
Iemitsu will definitely make a move.
Unless I protect it——
the light of hope of 30 000 people will be in danger.


YES, I DID.
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
GOD'S MESSENGER APPEARED IN AT THE USA SHRINE

USA (BUNGO)
EXCUSE ME, HOW MUCH IS THIS HORSE?

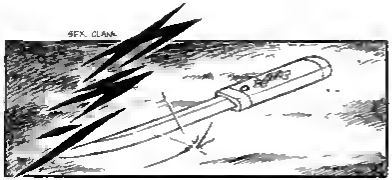
HE LEAPED LIGHTLY ONTO THE DIVINE HORSE WHICH WAS ON A RAMPAGE AND SAVED IPPAKU-SAMA AND EVERYONE.
SHH—
ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT NATSUKI?

THERE WAS A CROSS SIGN THAT ROSE BEHIND GOD'S MESSENGER
YOU CAN SAY THAT HE'S A DIVINE BEING, EXACTLY LIKE A DEITY
USA IS THE SHRINE FOR DEITY HACHIMAN AND MAYBE THAT'S THE FORM OF DEITY HACHIMAN.
DEITY HACHIMAN IS A CHRISTIAN GOD?
HACHIMAN-SAMA IS THE WAR GOD THAT SURPASSES DEITIES AND THE BUDDHA.
SHE'S GETTING A RATHER GOOD REPUTATION

AFTER ALL, EVEN I'D BE OVERWHELMED WHEN I SEE THAT.
A SHAPE OF THE CRUCIFIX STOOD UP COINCIDENTLY
AT THE FIRE TOWER THAT WAS WRECKED BY THE HORSE——
YES, THAT WOULD SEEM LIKE A MIRACLE.
IT'S SAID THAT IF 3 MIRACLES OCCUR, THAT PERSON CAN BE A SAINT WHICH PROBABLY IS WHAT WILL BECOME OF NATSUKI SOON.
Natsuki is... really incredible...
COME, LET'S GO WE HAVE TO MEET THEM IN NAKATSU, DON'T WE?
YES.

SFX. GRABS
KOKURA (BUZEN)
HEY LADY, YOU SURE ARE FREE
WHAT A SHAME TO WASTE SUCH A GOOD WOMAN FLOWERS IN BLOOM ARE SHORT-LIVED
YOU INSOLENT MAN! LET GO OF ME!
I AM THE FIANCE OF MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, GET OUT OF MY WAY!
EH MIYA-MOTO MU-SASHI
HEY, WHY ARE YOU DAUNTED BY THE NAME OF A FELLOW WHO ISN'T HERE
NOW THAT YOU MENTION MUSASHI, I HEARD A PE-CULIAR GOSSIP ABOUT HIM

SFX: SLAPS
HOW DARE YOU SPOUT SUCH NONSENSE!
WHAT'S WITH THAT →
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI IS COLLABORATING WITH GOD'S MESSENGER WHO APPEARED IN SHIMABARA
IF MUSASHI IS ALSO WITH THAT MAN, THEN YOUR FIANCÉ ISN'T KOKURA'S STRATEGIST BUT A NATIONAL REBEL.
IT'S NOT NONSENSE IT SEEMS THAT GOD'S MESSENGER HAS ALSO BEEN SIGHTED AROUND USA.
OSU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OOPS, THIS IS BAD.
THAT'S A LIE.
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING FURTHER, I SHALL KILL YOU!



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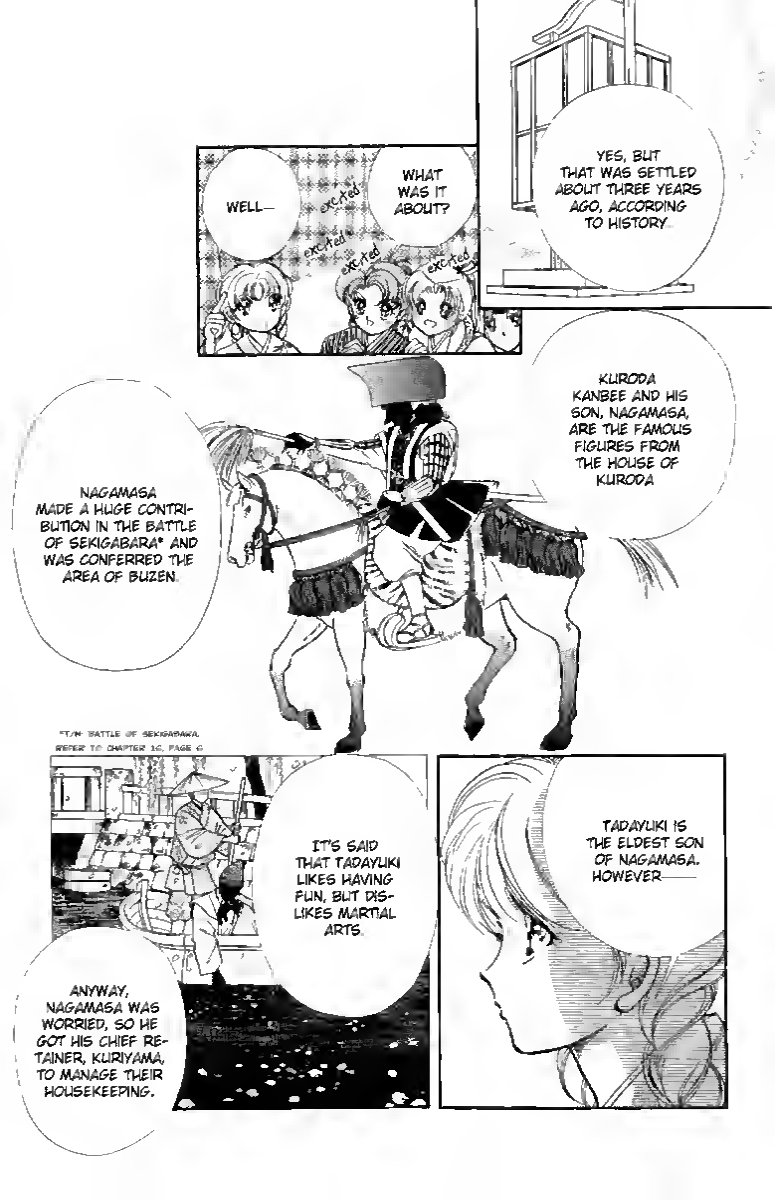
DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS. BEFORE LONG, HE'LL FINISH HIS TASK AND RETURN
LISTEN, IT'S NOT A GOOD THING FOR WOMEN TO TRAVEL.
BE OBEDIENT
NAKASU (FUZEN)
No, Osu can't wait anymore.
I want to see Musashi-sama——

KOKURA IS NEARBY THOUGH ARE WE VISITING THEM?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO FROM NOW ON?
OR ARE WE PASSING THROUGH KOKURA TO THE KURODA CLAN IN CHIKUZEN?
YES.
AND
WE HAVE TO HURRY
I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE HURRY TO THE KURODA CLAN THEY MAY BE EASIER TO PERSUADE THAN OGASAWARA OF THE KOKURA CLAN
Yagyu Jubee.
I FEEL THAT THE SHOGUN'S MAN IS COMING AFTER US.
I THINK HE'S COMING BY FOLLOWING THE REPUTATION OF AMAKUSA SHIROU

BY THE WAY, HOW IS THE KURODA CLAN NOW?
If that guy is serious about coming to kill me, it would be rather dreadful.
EMA— WHO IS THE HEAD OF THE CLAN NOW?
HE'S KURODA TADAYUKI, SON OF NAGAMASA.
KURODA ALSO HAS A DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE?
KURO-DA TADA-YUKI——
HE'S THE MAN WHO CREATES A DOMESTIC MAYHEM IN THE HOUSE OF KURODA.


YES, BUT THAT WAS SETTLED ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO HISTORY...
WELL—
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
excited
excited
excited
KURODA KANBEE AND HIS SON, NAGAMASA, ARE THE FAMOUS FIGURES FROM THE HOUSE OF KURODA
NAGAMASA MADE A HUGE CONTRIBUTION IN THE BATTLE OF SEKIGABARA* AND WAS CONFERRED THE AREA OF BUZEN.
*T/N: BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA. REFER TO CHAPTER 16, PAGE 6
IT'S SAID THAT TADAYUKI LIKES HAVING FUN, BUT DISLIKES MARTIAL ARTS.
TADAYUKI IS THE ELDEST SON OF NAGAMASA. HOWEVER——
ANYWAY, NAGAMASA WAS WORRIED, SO HE GOT HIS CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA, TO MANAGE THEIR HOUSEKEEPING.

WOW, IS HE A DISAPPOINTMENT AND A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING DONO-SAMA?
YES— HE'S INVOLVED WITH GOOD-LOOKING YOUNG MEN WHOM HE FANCIES
HE FAVORS THEM AND EVEN ASSIGNS IMPORTANT POSTS TO THOSE WEIRD MEN
THE MAN WHO WORRIED THAT IT WILL BE THE DOWNFALL OF BUZEN AS TADAYUKI CONTINUED HIS WRONGDOINGS
WAS THE CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA TAIZEN.
ADMIRABLE—
WASN'T THAT A DRASTIC MEASURE?
YES, IT WAS.
WITH READINESS TO DIE, TAIZEN TOLD THE SHOGUN THAT HIS YOUNG MASTER IS PLANNING AN INSURGENCY.

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, TADAYUKI WASN'T REVOLTING, HENCE THE SUSPICIONS WERE CLEARED.
SINCE THEN, HE WAS A CHANGED MAN. DURING THE AMAKUSA REBELLION, HE WAS THE FIRST CAVALRY WHO LED THE WAY TO SUPPRESS THE REVOLT
THE FIRST TO ATTACK? THAT WON'T DO
THAT WAS AFTER HE CHANGED HIS WAYS.
——ANYWAY, THAT CHIEF RETAINER WAS REMARKABLE
HE SEEMS LIKE THOSE CHARACTERS IN THE OLD MOVIES.
THE PERFECT PICTURE OF A LOYAL RETAINER.

——NO... NOT REALLY...
YOU'RE NEAR THE KURODA CLAN YOU MUST HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE RUMORS, HAVEN'T YOU MIYAMOTO-KUN?
I HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD OF——KURIYAMA SOMETHING OR ANOTHER AND THE REVOLT.
BUT I HAD HEARD THAT HIZEN WAS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF KURODA TADAYUKI'S CORRUPTED GOVERNANCE.
BUT THAT'S ALL I KNOW...

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
COULD IT MEAN...
THAT THE DOMESTIC COMMOTION HAS YET TO HAPPEN?
HISTORY IS OUT OF SYNCH...?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THAT'S ONE LESS PROBLEM
Yes—
Maybe we can make use of that and make the Kuroda Clan our ally.

For some reason or another the Usa Shrine is a shrine to visit It is extremely magnificent

and it makes one wonder what deity is being worshipped in the temple It is none other than Deity Hachiman, but what kind of god is he? (Although I had drawn comics concerning deities before, but) Deity Hachiman is a mysterious god that integrates Shinto* and Buddhism Moreover there's a saying that the deity had descended upon Usa, but what exactly does that mean? Nevertheless to have built such a splendid shrine in that place, it means that something has come, right? It's because of that reason that I wanted to draw this shrine

*T/N: SHINTO IS THE INDIGENOUS RELIGION OF JAPAN.

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1637 Volume 5 Chapter 22

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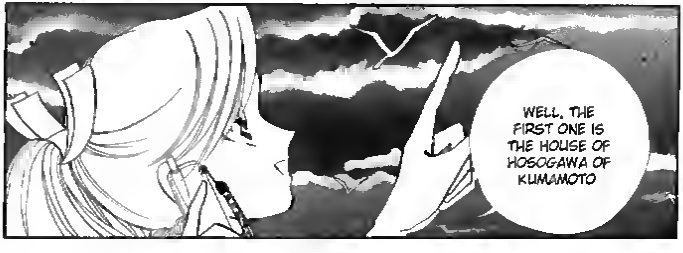
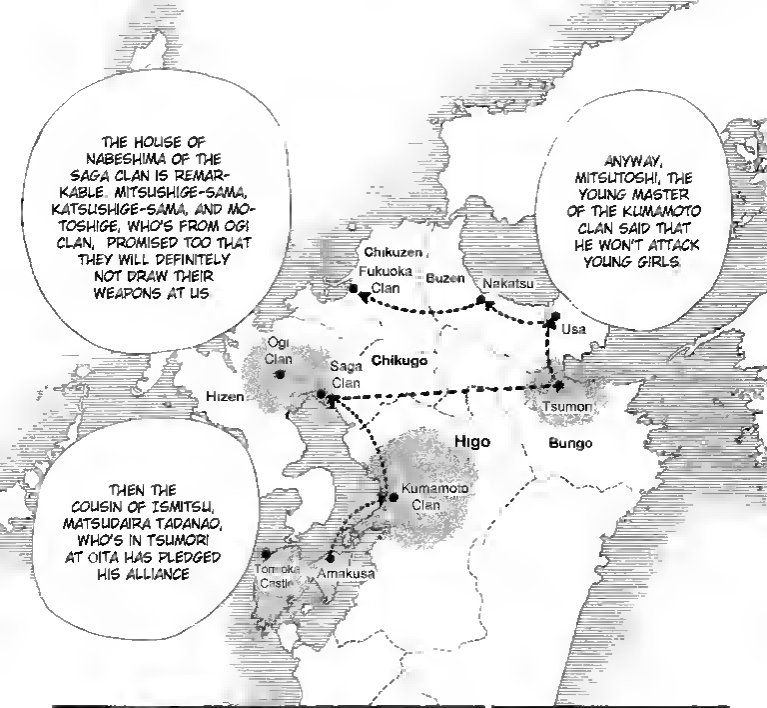
AMAKUSA 1637
アマクサ
MASAHITO AKAGAWA PRESENTS
Chapter 22

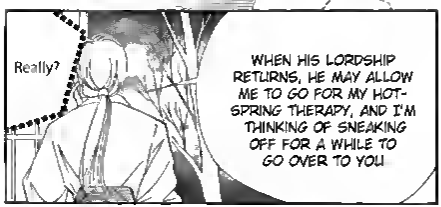
HELLO, YATSUKA?! THIS IS NATSUKI. I'M SORRY WE COULDN'T CONTACT YOU EARLIER
WE'RE NOW IN THE KURODA CLAN AT FUKUOKA.

HOW IS IT? HOW IS IT?
THE SKY'S CRIMSON RED.
WELL... AH...
IT'S CONNECTING!

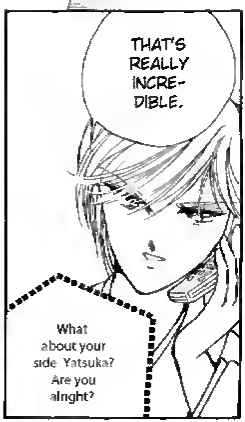
REMARKABLE THINGS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED, AND IT'S A HUGE ACHIEVEMENT
THE NEIGHBOURING GENERALS HAVE CHANGED THEIR STANCE TO SUPPORT US


WELL, THE FIRST ONE IS THE HOUSE OF HOSOGAWA OF KUMAMOTO


THE HOUSE OF NABESHIMA OF THE SAGA CLAN IS REMARKABLE. MITSUSHIGE-SAMA, KATSUSHIGE-SAMA, AND MOTOSHIGE, WHO'S FROM OGI CLAN, PROMISED TOO THAT THEY WILL DEFINITELY NOT DRAW THEIR WEAPONS AT US
ANYWAY, MITSUTOSHI, THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE KUMAMOTO CLAN SAID THAT HE WON'T ATTACK YOUNG GIRLS
Chikuzen
Fukuoka Clan
Buzen
Nakatsu
Usa
Ogi Clan
Saga Clan
Chikugo
Hizen
Tsumori
Higo
Bungo
Kumamoto Clan
THEN THE COUSIN OF ISMITSU, MATSUDAIRA TADANAO, WHO'S IN TSUMORI AT OITA HAS PLEDGED HIS ALLIANCE
Tomioka Castle
Amakusa


Really?
WHEN HIS LORDSHIP RETURNS, HE MAY ALLOW ME TO GO FOR MY HOT-SPRING THERAPY, AND I'M THINKING OF SNEAKING OFF FOR A WHILE TO GO OVER TO YOU

WE'RE WAITING— DO TAKE CARE!
YATSUKA SAID THAT HE MAY COME AND JOIN US


THAT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE.
What about your side Yatsuka? Are you alright?

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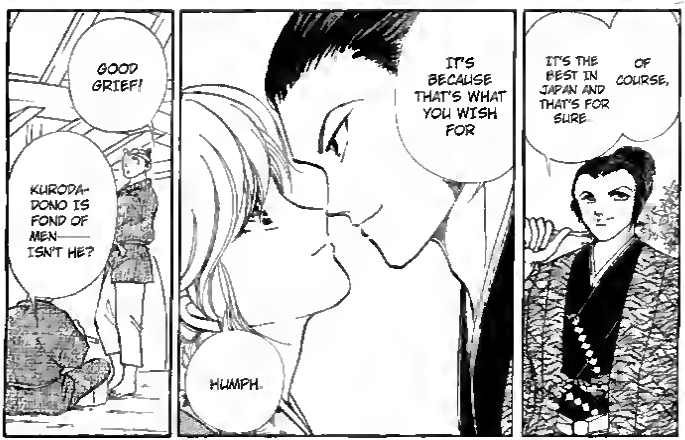
HOW IS IT, JUDAYU? IT'S RATHER WELL DONE, ISN'T IT?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, DONO.
THIS IS THE FOREMOST VESSEL OF JAPAN AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE SUCH A SHIP IS NONE OTHER THAN I, KURODA TADAYUKI
THE HEAD OF FUKUOKA CLAN KURODA TADAYUKI
THE BEST IN JAPAN?
AIDE KURAHASHI JUDAYU


OF COURSE, IT'S THE BEST IN JAPAN AND THAT'S FOR SURE.
IT'S BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH FOR
HUMPH.
GOOD GRIEF!
KURODA-DONO IS FOND OF MEN—— ISN'T HE?

*T.N. GOKU IS A MEASUREMENT UNIT FORMULATED BY TOYOTOMI HIDEYOSHI TO EXPRESS THE AMOUNT OF RICE AND SALARIES TO BE PAID TO THE OFFICIALS AND FEUDAL LORDS IN HIS COURT (REFER TO CHAPTER 14, PAGE 8)

LOOK! THIS GOLD ORNAMENT IS WHAT HE WANTS TOO.
KURODA EARNS 50,000 GOKU* WHICH IS BEING WASHED OUT BY SUCH A MAN AND THAT MAKES US A LAUGHING STOCK OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
HA, IT'S SAID THAT BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ARE DEADLY AND SUCH IS THAT ONE!
HE'S JUST AS PRETTY AS THE RUMOUR SAYS HE IS
IS THAT MAN KURAHASHI JUDAYU-SAMA?
HEY, WAIT UP, JUDAYU.
HE PESTERS DONO FOR INFINITE LUXURY.
UH—M, I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE
HAA.. IF THIS CONTINUES, OUR CLAN WILL BE..
Hahha
Hahha
REGARDLESS OF HOW PRETTY HE IS, HE'S BUT A POISONOUS FLOWER

HEY WAIT UP.
WAIT FOR ME!
I'M THINKING OF THAT TOO,
I THINK IT'S BEST THAT WE REPORT TO THE CHIEF RETAINER, KURIYAMA-SAMA, ABOUT THIS VESSEL
AND ALSO IF HE CAN MAYBE CONVINCE DONO AGAINST THIS MAN.
IT KIND OF FEELS THAT HE'S OF HIGH SOCIAL STATUS.
A SAMURAI'S HERE.
MY BROTHER DIDN'T MEAN IT.
I'M VERY SORRY
AH.
BYU

BLOOD...!!
DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN GET AWAY LIKE THIS FOR HURTING MY FACE!
SFX: CLANG
SFX: WOOSH

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
JUDAYU!
DON'T MAKE A CUT AT PEOPLE AS YOU WISH!
SFX. SPLASH
AH...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

DONO?
DONO!
JUDAYU, WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
THIS CHAP HAS MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME!
WHAT WAS THAT——?
YOUR SUBJECT IS A TWERP WHO BLAMES OTHERS WHEN HE IS A WEAK SWORDSMAN.
I'M NOT MAKING A FOOL OUT OF HIM.

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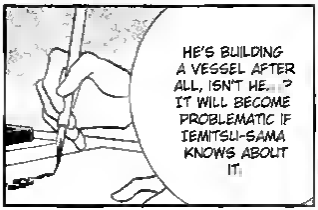
COULD HE BE KURODA TADAYUKI-SAMA?
NA-NATSUKI, THIS MAN IS CALLED 'DONO'——
OOH...
Huh?! This idiotic Dono is Kuroda?!
YES, INDEED. I AM KURODA TADAYUKI.
MY NAME IS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI WHILE THIS MAN IS MASUDA SHIROU FROM AMAKUSA WE'VE COME BECAUSE HE WANTS TO MEET TADAYUKI-SAMA.
TALKING ABOUT THE WAY THINGS HAVE TURNED OUT, PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR THE ABRUPT IMPUDENCE.
Ah... This is maybe the worst situation to meet him.
THE INSOLENT ONE OVER THERE, WHAT'S YOUR NAME——?

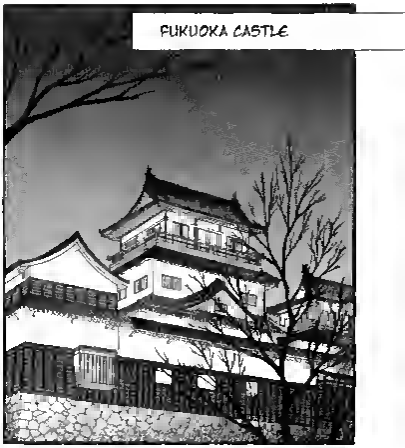
SHIROU... FROM AMAKUSA?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO. OH...WE HAD INDEED MET IN EDO...
NO, I DON'T. I DON'T KNOW SUCH A COUNTRY BUMPKIN
HUH? DO YOU KNOW HIM, JUDAYU?
PLEASE DON'T TOUCH ME I DISLIKE DONO FOR SIDING WITH THE COUNTRY BUMPKIN.
SIGH
JUDAYÜ, WHAT ARE YOU SO UPSET ABOUT?
AH...
SMACK
YOU'RE SLOW!
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IS USELESS!
DONO!
DONO, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HEY—
THE MAN WHO'S SAID TO BE VIOLENT IS REALLY A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING DONO, ISN'T HE?
YES...
THESE PEOPLE ARE WITH MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO. SHOW THEM THE WAY TO THE CASTLE
IT SEEMS THAT YOU'RE BUILDING AN AMAZING VESSEL I WONDER WHO'S BIGGER YOURS OR YATSUKA'S?
NAT-SUKI.
YES, IN AMA-KUSA...
IS THERE SOMEONE WHO HAS BUILT A VESSEL BIGGER THAN THIS?!
WHAT KIND OF VESSEL IS THAT?! IS IT FAST?!
THE TRUTH IS, UNDER THE SHOGUN'S ORDER, NO ONE IS PERMIT-TED TO BUILD A HUGE VESSEL
HUH? EVEN THEN—

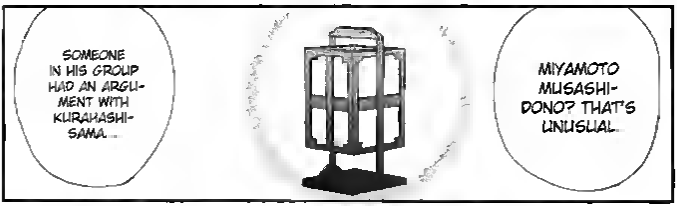
AH—JUST AS I THOUGHT. YATSUKA'S IS BIGGER.
BESIDES WHAT'S THIS ORNAMENT? SUCH A THING IS HEAVY, ISN'T IT?
YES, IT WILL BE. THE SIDE WAVES WILL CAPSIZE THE VESSEL EASILY
BUT—WON'T IT BE DIFFICULT FOR THE VESSEL TO BALANCE IF IT'S ADORNED WITH MANY OF THESE?
DON'T TOUCH IT AS YOU WISH! IT'S A GOLDEN PHOENIX WHICH DONO HAS MADE JUST FOR ME!
—HEY..
EVEN IN EUROPE, SHIP ORNAMENTS ARE GRADUALLY REMOVED IN THE 19TH CENTURY AS PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S BETTER FOR THE VESSELS TO DO WITHOUT ANY
Smack

YOU SEEM TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT VESSELS
TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT.
EH... WELL—
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BUILD A BIGGER VESSEL? WHAT'S THAT 'BALANCE' THAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT VESSELS
EIJI, WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM ABOUT THE PROPELLER?
NO, I CAN'T. IT'D BECOME AN OUT-OF-PLACE ARTIFACT, WON'T IT?
Hm... he's kind of...
WHAT'S A 'PROPRIETOR'?
His expression changes when we talk about vessels...


HE'S BUILDING A VESSEL AFTER ALL, ISN'T HE...? IT WILL BECOME PROBLEMATIC IF IEMITSU-SAMA KNOWS ABOUT IT.

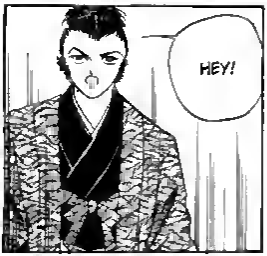

FUKUOKA CASTLE

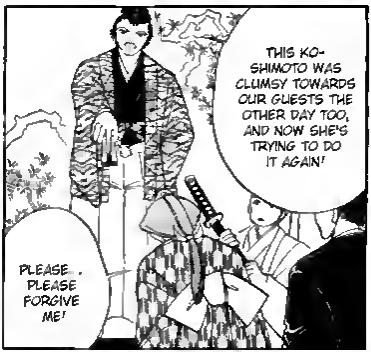
YES... AND THEN MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-SAMA FROM KOKURA APPEARED


SOMEONE IN HIS GROUP HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH KURAHASHI-SAMA...
MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO? THAT'S UNUSUAL...

OHH... I GUESS I SHOULD GO AND WELCOME THEM.

I FELT DELIGHTED WHEN I SAW THAT PERSON ARGUED WITH KURAHASHI-SAMA——
AH...NO, THAT'S...



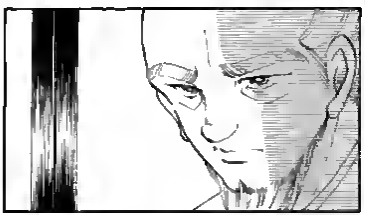

THIS KOSHIMOTO WAS CLUMSY TOWARDS OUR GUESTS THE OTHER DAY TOO, AND NOW SHE'S TRYING TO DO IT AGAIN!
PLEASE . PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

KOSHIMOTO IS A FEMALE WHO WAITS UPON PEOPLE OF HIGH SOCIAL STATUS TO DO ALL KINDS OF CHORES.

HIT S
KAKA
KARA
KARA
DON'T RAISE YOUR HAND TOWARD GIRLS.
HOW DARE YOU...
DONO, I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?!
THIS FELLOW KNOWS NO MANNERS AND IS IMPUDENT!

I DON'T NEED A VIOLENT MAN WHO'S SWIFT TO STRIKE OR KILL TO TELL ME THAT I DON'T KNOW ANY MANNERS!

YOU TOO! IF YOU'RE STRIKING AND KILLING PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LORD, SOON YOU WON'T HAVE ANY FOLLOWERS!



WAIT, KURODA-DONO-SAMA!

AH, CHIEF RETAINER
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I HEAR SOME RUCKUS

SAY WHAT YOU WANT!
BRING ME MY SWORD!
I'M GOING TO KILL THIS INSOLENT FELLOW
DONO!
SFX: KIOKU
IF YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN KILL ME, TRY IT!
OH?
HOW ARROGANT YOU ARE WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SWORD.

NAT-SUKI!
DON'T THINK THAT YOU WILL WIN BECAUSE YOU HAVE A SWORD
FLICKS
STEP ASIDE, MIYAMOTO! I WON'T LOSE TO SUCH A MAN.
WELL-SAID.
CLINK

SFX: SLIDES
WELCOME TO FUKUOKA CASTLE.
I'M KURIYAMA TAIZEN, THE CHIEF RETAINER
KURIYAMA...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DONO? ARE YOU ENTERTAINING OUR GUESTS?
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING? BRING OUR GUESTS THE WINE.
AH... YES, SIR.

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Movies tv novels and such, have had him as their main character
Kuriyama Taizen.
According to Eri's story he was a loyal man who risked his life to remonstrate his Daimo and protected the clan.
HAH?
INCREDIBLE! SO YOU'RE KURIYAMA TAIZEN HIMSELF—? YOU RESEMBLE MATSUMOTO KOUSHIROU*.
*T/N MATSUMOTO KOUSHIROU IS A JAPANESE ART ST
HE'S THE PERSON WHO'LL RISK HIS LIFE TO HELP YOU!
YOU MUST TREASURE THIS MAN BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO'LL SAVE THE FUKUOKA CLAN!
KURIYAMA, GET LOSE! YOU'RE IN MY WAY!

YOU! YOUR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN OVER-BEARING FROM EARLIER. WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
HE IS GOD'S MESSENGER. A MAN CALLED SHIROU FROM AMAKUSA WHO'S NAME IS BEING TALKED ABOUT EVERYWHERE. THAT'S HIM.
CHRIS-TIAN?
DONO.. THAT MAN'S A CHRISTIAN FROM AMAKUSA WHO'S BECOMING THE TALK OF TOWN
SO YOU'RE GOD'S MESSEN-GER?
HOO.. THAT'S THE REASON WHY YOU'RE SO ARROGANT.
...

PLEASE— DONO
IT'S BEST THAT YOU THROW OUT SUCH A PERSON, AND IT'LL ALSO BE GOOD FOR THE CLAN TOO
DONO, JUDAYU'S WORRIED A-BOUT YOU.
Humph as long as I say it tearfully, Dono will never reject my wish
I WILL SPEAK TO THAT PERSON ALONE.
STEP BACK EVERY ON OF YOU
CLICK

MIYAMOTO-DONO, YOU HAVE TO STEP BACK TOO
DONO?!
DONO!
YOU'VE COME TO TELL ME SOMETHING, HAVEN'T YOU? GOD'S MESSENGER

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO SAY SUCH THINGS. IF ONLY DONO DIDN'T GET HIMSELF INVOLVED IN TROUBLESOME MATTERS...
IT'S TRUE THAT DONO IS EASILY ATTRACTED TO STRONG-WILLED AND GOOD-LOOKING MEN.
HE SEEMS TO LIKE THAT YOUNG MAN
BUT I WAS GLOATING WHEN DONO IGNORED KURAHASHI
and he's not even afraid to speak up...
He's straightforward.
IF YOU'RE STRIKING AND KILLING PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LORD, SOON YOU WON'T HAVE ANY FOLLOWERS!
DON'T THINK THAT YOU WILL WIN BECAUSE YOU HAVE A SWORD.

Is that a prophesy? To have said such things about me
YOU MUST TREASURE THIS MAN BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO'LL SAVE THE FUKUOKA CLAN!
KURA-HASHI-DONO
KURIYAMA-SAMA
No.
I can't be deceived! What am I thinking?!
OF COURSE .
FOR THE SAKE OF DONO, WE MUST KILL THAT MAN

THOSE WHO DESTROY THE CLAN SHALL BE KILLED.
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
That young man who can capture one's heart before one realizes it.
Yes...he's dangerous... that one.
BUT THAT GUY IS UNUSUALLY STRONG, AND HE HAS MIYAMOTO MUSASHI-DONO WITH HIM TOO. SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
UH...
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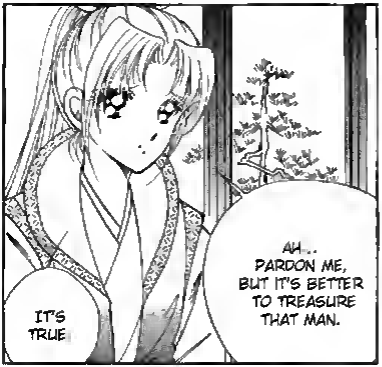
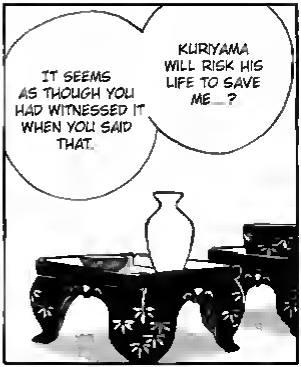
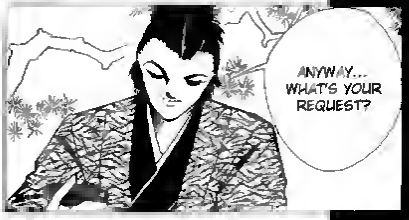

IT'S TRUE.
AH... PARDON ME, BUT IT'S BETTER TO TREASURE THAT MAN.

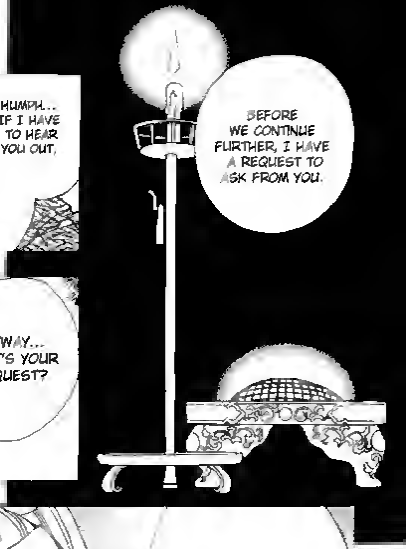

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOU HAD WITNESSED IT WHEN YOU SAID THAT.
KURIYAMA WILL RISK HIS LIFE TO SAVE ME...?

IS THAT A PROPHECY? IS THAT THE POWER OF GOD'S MESSENGER?

I don't like this. He may sexually harass me if I'm drunk.
ANYWAY, DRINK.
This idiotic Dono
He's unashamed about all this nonsense he chatters about
WELL, ERM.

HUH?
HUMPH... IF I HAVE TO HEAR YOU OUT,
I'D PREFER TO DO IT AFTER WE HAVE BECOME INTIMATE.


ANYWAY... WHAT'S YOUR REQUEST?


BEFORE WE CONTINUE FURTHER, I HAVE A REQUEST TO ASK FROM YOU.

PLEASE DO NOT JOIN THE SHOGUN EITHER.
IF THERE'S AN INSURRECTION IN SHIMABARA AND AMAKUSA, I'D LIKE TO REQUEST THAT YOU DON'T LAUNCH ANY ATTACK.

HMPH...

YOU'RE AGREEING TO MY REQUEST?
HUH.. REALLY?!
REGARDING WHAT YOU'VE ASKED
IT'S NOT THAT I CAN'T OBLIGE. .
IS THERE GOING TO BE A REBELLION? IS IT A MASSIVE ONE?
YES.
HMPH...
THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 30,000 PEOPLE IN SHIMABARA AND AMAKUSA.

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Again
It's the same expression he had when we were talking about the vessel
IS THAT SO... THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING.
YES...
I DID...
DID YOU ALSO GO TO THE OTHER CLANS FOR HELP?
among all the Doro that I had met,
Maybe this man is,
the most dangerous of them all.

[Amakusa 1637] Chapter 5—End—

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
EVIL FLOWERS!
3 years
together
with you!

3RD
I'M SO HAPPY YOU ARE RELEASING ALL MY FAVORITE PROJECTS TODAY
THERE'S BEEN A PROBLEM...
THE STAFF ALL DIED FROM EXHAUSTION. THERE WILL BE NO RELEASE
SURPRISED?
SORRY FOR NOT TELLING YOU EARLIER.